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Briscoe Cain seeks Open Seat in Congressional District 9 - Page 3

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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ROTARY WASHER TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 6

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

THEA presses EPA for Action on Waste Pits

EAST HARRIS COUNTY – In a letter to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, THEA director Jackie Medcalf stresses that the cleanup was required by the first Trump Administration but has faced continual delays. According to THEA, the latest cleanup plan from the companies responsible for the pollution fails to meet the EPA and community's requirements for a complete and effective cleanup of the Houston-area Superfund Site.

Citing statements by EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin that his priority is to clean up the backlog of Superfund Sites, Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA) is urging him to order the companies responsible for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site to remove the dioxin and other contaminated material from the site now.

"Enough time has been wasted and enough lives have been put at risk by delays in cleaning up this site," said THEA CEO and Founder Jackie Medcalf, "It is long past time for the EPA to require the companies to remove the threat to the community, the river and Galveston Bay."

In a letter to Administrator Zeldin, THEA points out that the Responsible Parties for the Site, Waste Management subsidiary McGinnis Industrial Maintenance Co. and International Paper, have requested and been granted 565 days worth of delays in coming up with a



JACKIE MEDCALF, THEA



LEE ZELDIN, EPA

final plan. The companies have also sent the agency plan after plan that do not meet the EPA's requirements for full removal of contaminated material and rigorous testing of the site to make sure it is safe. Each time the EPA reviews a plan, comments on its deficiencies and requests an updated plan, months are lost to delay.

As Medcalf points out in the letter, "The EPA ordered the responsible parties to remediate the site under the first Trump Administration. I stood with then Administrator Pruitt while he surveyed the damage after Hurricane Harvey, which caused unmeasurable amounts of dioxin to escape from the Northern Waste Pit. The working class residents who make up our community had

great hopes for a timely remediation process. Eight years later, they are still waiting.

The letter stresses that, in addition to the health risks of delay, the failure to clean up the site has threatened the local economy, wasted EPA funds on endless reviews and doubled the cost of the eventual cleanup. This goes against Administrator Zeldin's stated goal that "if a dollar is spent, that the dollar is spent on directly remediating the environmental issue."

As background, the Responsible Parties have had three chances to submit a so-called 100% design plan for the site's Northern Pit, the final plan before the work starts. The EPA rejected the first two and has been reviewing the third one for three months. THEA's analysis has identified a number of problems with the latest plan.

According to THEA, "The responsible parties' latest 100% design plan, like the ones before it, falls short and is unacceptable to the community. The right decision is to move the site to Remedial Action by requiring the parties to follow the EPA's design or by taking over the remediation directly. The wrong decision would be to repeat the cycle of comments and revisions. This cleanup was ordered during the first Trump Administration. It is time now to finish the job."

IN THE STARS

Crosby Library Book Sale

Friends of the Crosby Library will hold their "Fall Back into Your Reading" Book Sale! Friday, Sept 5 - 1pm-6pm Saturday, Sept 6 - 10am-5pm.

*****Book Sale Special***** A bag of books for \$10 per bag of all the books you can fit in it. Hard backed or paper back books. Children books priced as marked and not included in the bag total.

Children's books, mysteries, romance, cookbooks and craft books are just a sample of book choices, thanks to donations from patrons. All proceeds from the Book Sale benefit the library and support the Summer Reading programs. Questions call the Library - 832-927-7790

Highlands Rotary supports Pregnancy Center



Highlands Rotary president Patricia Scott presents a check to PRC Executive Director Gail Duhon for improvements to their new building, and related signage. Rotarians present at the event were Denise Smith, Sheila Parker, Cora Miller, Jennifer King, Andy Scott, Wayne Prescott, and Rickie Garcia.

HIGHLANDS – Every year the Rotary Club is able to sponsor a community improvement project, and this year they are supporting the Pregnancy Resource Center East, in their new home on Main Street in Highlands.

PRC is occupying a building that over the years has been a bank, a clinic, and now a permanent home for the PRC, according to its Executive Director Gail Duhon.

Through an arrangement with Rotary International, the local club is participating with funds that were raised several years ago, sent to the national group, and then returned for the community project. The Highlands club will receive a grant

from R.I. of \$3000, to be used for bathroom upgrades and signage at PRC.

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. The Center is a beacon of hope and support for women in crisis.

Man sentenced to 20 years for Drug Deal in Crosby

Church parking lot methamphetamine deal

HOUSTON – A 41-year-old Mexican national has been ordered federal prison for his role in a conspiracy to distribute 116 kilograms of methamphetamine and for unlawfully possessing ammunition and multiple weapons, announced U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Eustorgio Quiroz-Salto pleaded guilty July 11, 2024.

U.S. District Judge Alfred H. Bennett has now ordered Quiroz-Salto to serve a total of 240 months in federal prison. Not a U.S. citizen, he is expected to face removal proceedings following his imprisonment. At the hearing, the court heard additional evidence that described his prior convictions for cocaine trafficking in the Southern District of Florida in 2011. In addition, Judge Bennett ordered the forfeiture of all weapons and ammunition seized.

"Public safety begins with taking the most dangerous recidivists off the street," said Ganjei. "When a defendant, like the one here, illegally enters our country three times, engages in drug trafficking despite having prior drug convictions, and illegally possesses firearms, he better believe we're going to come looking for him."

"Not only was Quiroz-Salto in the country illegally, but when Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents arrested him, they uncovered a substantial amount of methamphetamine destined for our communities," said Special Agent in Charge Jonathan C. Pullen of the DEA – Houston Division. "He was caught in the act, selling deadly drugs near a place of worship, and now he'll spend two decades behind bars paying the price for his reckless actions that threatened to destroy

lives." On Dec 12, 2023, Quiroz-Salto arranged to deliver over 20 kilograms of methamphetamine aka "ice" in the parking lot of a church in Crosby. When he arrived with Manuel Varjas Corona, authorities arrested both men and seized multiple kilograms of narcotics from their vehicle.

A subsequent search of the home where Quiroz-Salto resided resulted in the seizure of an additional 93.5 kilograms of methamphetamine, 12 firearms, a silencer, 351 rounds of live ammunition and multiple firearm parts.

Quiroz-Salto had been removed in 2007 and 2008 and returned illegally. He will remain in custody pending transfer to a Federal Bureau of Prisons facility to be determined in

Continued. See CROSBY DRUG DEAL, Page 2

GOOSE CREEK SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Change Is In The Air

The start of a new school year is always a special time filled with eager anticipation, nervous energy, and the hope and promise of new opportunities. I am extremely proud of the way our students and staff have returned with such focus and enthusiasm. There seems to be a common feeling in the air that we are beginning this new year with a strong sense of confidence and assurance that good things are in store.

While this year has begun with some changes, including district-wide rezoning to level out our student population, it appears that we are well-prepared and have adapted seamlessly. While transitions of this kind can be complex, I am encouraged by the way our students, families, and staff have embraced the changes.

Thanks to careful planning, open collaboration, and early notification, all our schools have started the year smoothly. These adjustments will support more balanced classrooms and campuses, creating even better learning environments for all students.

We also launched our updated cell phone policy this year. We recognize that sweep-



Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Randal O'Brien

ing changes like this, reversing the way we've operated previously, may require a period of adjustment and that both parents and students have become accustomed to instantaneous dialogue.

However, this is not merely a school policy, but has been legislated as law, meaning that it is not optional, and we are already seeing encouraging results. Students have been more focused in classrooms, more engaged with instruction than ever before, while building stronger connections with their peers and creating a more positive culture of learning.

As we celebrate the successful start to the new school year, I'd also like to acknowledge the important work happening at the district's governance level to ensure our stability, including identifying a strong new leader for our district. The Board of Trustees has hired Thompson & Horton, a top-tier educational search firm, to assist in the search for our next Superintendent of Schools.

The school board will work in tandem with this respected group to ensure a thorough and community-inclusive process that reflects the values of our school community, continuing our tradition of excellence while developing the whole child.

Moving forward, I want to encourage our students to remain hungry for learning, our staff to remain focused on their why, and our families to step into a more connected and engaging relationship with our campuses. I am confident that this year will bring many achievements and lasting memories for our Giant community. Our GIANT future begins with you!

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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Ms. Ashlynn McMakin, Graduate of Stuart FFA is Approved as an American FFA Degree Recipient

Austin, Texas – Ashlynn McMakin, of the Stuart FFA Chapter, has been approved as an American FFA Degree recipient at the 98th annual National FFA Convention to be held on Saturday, November 1, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The American FFA Degree is the highest degree bestowed by the National FFA Organization, with less than 1% of FFA members earning the prestigious honor.



The American Degree is the top degree in a four-tier degree program that recognizes individual achievement in instructional programs, supervised experience, and leadership development and is awarded at the National FFA Convention in October.

A portion of the American FFA Degree ceremony states, "Boundaries within our country exist only in name. True American citizens are interested in and loyal to their local communities and states, but their greatest devotion is to their country. Recipients of the American FFA Degree see beyond limited horizons. They concern themselves not only with the affairs of their local chap-

ters and state associations but also with the National FFA Organization, working for the advancement of agriculture, which, in turn, strengthens America."

Ashlynn was named as a candidate for the American FFA Degree at the 96th annual Texas FFA State Convention held this past summer, June 30 – July 4, 2025, in Fort Worth. The 96th annual Texas FFA Convention recorded approximately 16,000 members and guests. Members of the state's largest agricultural youth leadership organization spent the week attending leadership

workshops, participating in events and activities, being recognized for their achievements, and serving as the legislative body for the Texas FFA Association.

The Texas FFA is the nation's largest state FFA association with a membership of more than 182,000. FFA gives students the opportunity to apply practical classroom knowledge to real-world experiences through local, state and national competitions. For more information about the Texas FFA, visit www.texasffa.org (opens external link in new window)

Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber Donates School Supplies to Local Classrooms



Members of the Highlands-Lynchburg Area Chamber of Commerce gather around a stack of school supplies to be delivered to area schools for the beginning of the school year.



Tonya Kostka and Brittany White dropped off school supplies for all the classrooms and staff at BP Hopper Primary School. The donations were made by the Seniors Helping Seniors group and the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce.

Sentence in Crosby Drug Deal,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the near future. Corona, 51, a Mexican national who illegally resided in Houston, also pleaded guilty to his role and is set for sentencing at a later date. At that time, he faces up to life in pris-

on. DEA conducted the investigation with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Homeland Security

Investigations, FBI, Harris County Sheriff's Office and Houston Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Shelley J. Sullivan prosecuted the case.

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Barbers Hill Press

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 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.

Briscoe Cain, Mealar file for Texas' Newly Drawn Congressional District 9 seat

By Gabby Birenbaum

TEXAS – State Rep. Briscoe Cain kicked off what operatives expect to be a flurry of campaign announcements with a bid for Houston's 9th Congressional District.

With Texas' new congressional map on the verge of full passage, local elected Republican officials are eyeing bids in districts newly

drawn to favor the GOP.

The redistricting has created a rare opportunity for Republicans in numerous metro areas to advance their careers when they would typically be stuck waiting for members of Congress to retire — or be forced to run in less favorable terrain.

State Rep. Briscoe Cain, R-Deer Park, kicked off the frenzy Thursday, filing a dec-



Rep. Briscoe Cain

laration of candidacy for the newly drawn 9th Congressional District, anchored east of Houston. That seat, current-

ly held by Democratic Rep. Al Green, was moved from southern Houston to the eastern parts of Harris County and Liberty County, going from a district that voted for Kamala Harris by 44 percentage points to one that Donald Trump would have carried by 20 points.

Alexandra del Moral Mealar, an ex-Army captain who ran for Harris County judge in

2022, announced a run in the 9th District Monday, setting up a competitive Republican primary.

But with three of the newly created seats lacking an incumbent and two South Texas districts redrawn to be more favorable to Republicans, operatives expect a flurry of candidates to jump into races that Trump hopes yield five new GOP members of Congress.

Chambers County Honors Emergency Managers for State Recertification

During Commissioners Court on Tuesday, our Emergency Management Coordinator, Ryan Holzaepfel, and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, Jeffery Choate, were recognized for receiving their recertification as Certified Emergency Managers.

Ryan first achieved his certification in 2010, and Jeffery earned his in 2020. To maintain this certification, emergency managers must complete ongoing continuing education and recertify every 5 years. They both continue to demonstrate their dedication and commitment to keeping Chambers County prepared and resilient.

During the recognition, Judge Jimmy Sylvia made the com-



ment, "There may be over 2,000 Certified Emergency Managers

in the state of Texas, but Chambers County has the best two."

We are proud of Ryan and Jeffery for their hard work and

continued leadership in serving our country.

Federal Judge Dismisses Hair Discrimination Case Against Barbers Hill ISD, Ending 2 years of Battle

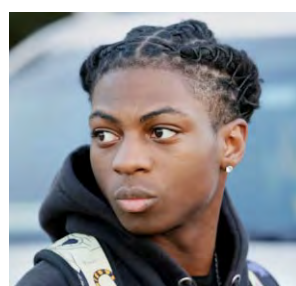
TEXAS – After nearly two years, the legal battle between a Black student who was disciplined over his hair while attending school in Barbers Hill ISD is now over.

FILE - Darryl George, a 17-year-old junior, before walking across the street to go into Barbers Hill High School after serving a 5-day in-school suspension for not cutting his hair Monday, Sept. 18, 2023, in Mont Belvieu. For as long as schools have policed hairstyles as part of their dress codes, some students have seen the rules as attempts to deny their cultural and religious identities. To school

administrators, strict dress codes can be tools for promoting uniformity and discipline. (AP Photo/Michael Wyke, File) (Michael Wyke, Copyright 2023 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.)

On July 24, a federal judge dismissed the case in favor of Barber Hill ISD, which means the case is permanently closed, and Darryl George will not be able to file the same lawsuit again.

In 2023, George, who was a junior at Barber Hills High School in Mont Belvieu at the time, was suspended after school officials said his dreadlocks fell below his eyebrows and



ear lobes and violated the district's dress code.

George ended up in a legal battle with the district and spent nearly all of his junior year in in-school suspension and ultimately decided to leave the district in his senior year.

The district said that George's long hair, which he wore to school tied and twisted locs on top of his head, violated its policy because, if

let down, it would have fallen below his shirt collar, eyebrows or earlobes. The district said other students with locs complied with the length policy.

George's federal lawsuit alleged that his punishment violated the CROWN Act, a state law prohibiting race-based discrimination of hair.

The CROWN Act, which was being discussed before the dispute over George's hair and which took effect in September 2023, bars employers and schools from penalizing people because of hair texture or protective hairstyles, including Afros, braids, locs,

twists or Bantu knots.

Last year, a judge dismissed most of the claims in George's lawsuit against the district. The judge dismissed claims that George's due process rights under the 14th Amendment were being violated. He also dropped Gov. Greg Abbott, Attorney General Ken Paxton, the district superintendent and other school employees from the case.

The one claim the judge left standing was an allegation of sex discrimination based on the school district's lack of clearly defined policies on why girls could be allowed to have long hair but boys could not.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By State Representative ARMANDO WALLE



We Democrats were right to flee Texas. And the redistricting fight isn't over

When Gov. Greg Abbott surrendered Texas to President Donald Trump's demand to redraw Texas congressional districts and replace five seats held by Democrats with Republicans, we knew dramatic action would be necessary. But Democrats are the minority party in the Texas Legislature, and our options were few.

We knew we could not defeat Trump's plan on our own. Texas Republicans have the votes and their fear of Trump far exceeds their loyalty to Texas. They weren't open to negotiations. However, a strong national effort involving Democratic allies in other states could hold the line against Trump's effort to rig the 2026 election and avoid the wrath of American voters.

So that's what we set out to accomplish. If we could break the necessary House quorum long enough to light signal fires across the nation, we could engage blue state governors like California's Gavin Newsom in our effort to protect the integrity of the 2026 election. If Trump wanted five more Republican seats from Texas, we could get more Democratic seats from California.

The personal and political risks were great, but in the end our decision was the right one, morally, politically, strategically. To begin with, Trump's plan as accepted by Abbott and the Republican leadership was a racially charged assault on minority voting rights. There was no ambiguity. Minority voters were to be stuffed into districts where their voices would be silenced.

Now, most of us would like to take district map drawing out of the hands of state legislators and give it to independent citizen commissions. Even though the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court has not intervened in cases of partisan gerrymandering, most Americans rightly reject it. Were we willing to engage in a partisan effort to neutralize Trump's racially divisive plan? Yes, we were.

Should Republicans maintain their House majority in 2026, Trump would have open road to continue his assault on our lives, liberties and the possibilities for our children and grandchildren's future happiness. Trump's policies are wildly unpopular because they are wildly destructive. His unpopularity is the reason he's trying to rig next year's election. He knows he's in trouble.

Furthermore, a failure to defeat Trump's election rigging scheme would delay and probably doom forever any chance of ending partisan gerrymandering. It is worth pointing out that Republicans defeated national Democrats' proposed 2020 Freedom to Vote Act, which prohibited a state from drawing Congressional district lines "with the intent or has the effect of materially favoring or disfavoring any political party."

The day my Democratic colleagues and I returned to Texas and restored the quorum necessary to conduct business in the Texas House, Trump announced his intention to further rig the 2026 election in his favor. He said he would try to prohibit popular vote-by-mail programs across the country. He even said something about prohibiting voting machines, whatever that means.

Additionally, many people believe his experiments with sending the military into the streets of Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., foreshadow his plans to use similar tactics to intimidate voters next year. It is not hard to see that the future of free and fair elections is in jeopardy.

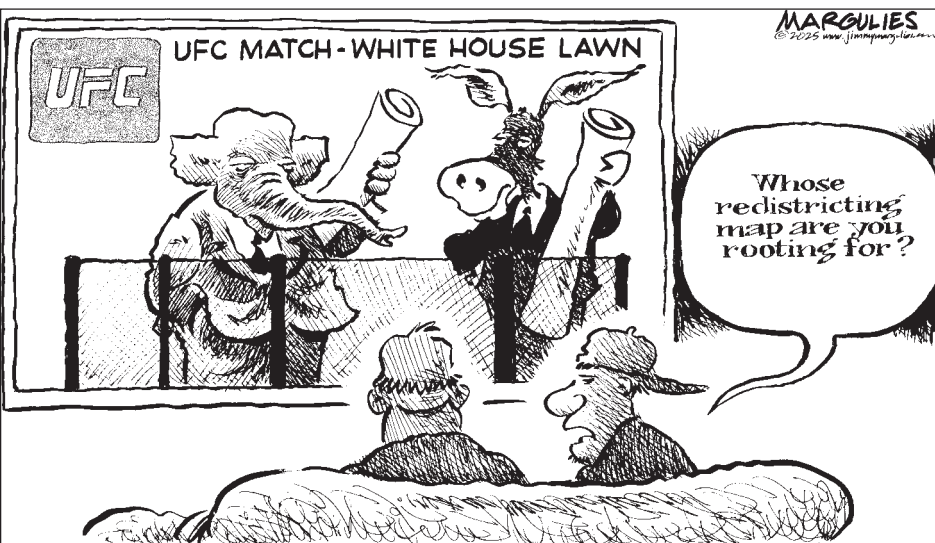
California Gov. Gavin Newsom, responding to our calls to action, took the right approach. California had already moved to an independent redistricting commission. If new district lines were to be drawn now, a temporary approach had to be made. If the California Legislature approves a new map, the map will have to be approved by a majority of the state's voters. The California process would be done out in the open, and voters would make the ultimate decision.

Also, California will revert to the use of its independent commission in the next scheduled redistricting effort after the 2030 census. We believe other blue state governors will choose similar paths, especially if Trump follows through and takes his Texas efforts to other states controlled by Republicans.

In the end, our efforts are aligned with our long-term commitment to open, free and fair elections. That also means the pursuit of a national prohibition of partisan gerrymandering just as we proposed in the Freedom to Vote Act. Stopping Trump now is imperative if we are to succeed in those efforts.

Texas Rep. Armando Walle represents District 140 in Houston.

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



Redistricting bill sent to Abbott, lawsuit challenges it

The Texas Senate approved the new congressional map and sent the bill to Gov. Greg Abbott. A lawsuit challenging the redrawn districts as being racially discriminatory was filed before Abbott could sign the bill, which he has promised to do soon. The Texas Tribune reported that the redrawn map, which could give Republicans five additional congressional seats in 2026, has been challenged by two law firms filing on behalf of 13 Texas residents collectively called "the Gonzales plaintiffs."

In addition, the NAACP, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and Mexican American Legislative Caucus have joined LULAC in two additional suits against Abbott that call the maps unconstitutional and "intentionally discriminatory."

Abbott's office defended the maps. Andrew Mahaleris, the governor's press secretary, said they allow "more Texans to vote for the candidate of their choice," noting that Hispanic Texans are increasingly moving away from Democrats.

A 2021 suit filed by LULAC over the maps drawn after the 2020 census is still pending in court.

HOUSE PASSES BILL REQUIRING SIRENS IN SOME FLOOD-PRONE AREAS

Flood sirens will be required in areas identified by the Texas Water Development Board under a Senate bill approved by the House last week. Under the measure, TWDB would have to identify areas that have a history of severe flooding. In those areas, either the county or city would be required to install and regularly test warning sirens, The Dallas Morning News reported.

SB3 allocates \$50 million over the next two years to help cities and counties pay for the sirens, but they must submit a proposal to receive funding. The move comes after the July 4 Hill Country floods killed at least 137 people, including 27 campers and staff members at Camp Mystic along the Guadalupe River.

"We must rely on proven technology like outdoor warning systems," said state Rep. Terry Wilson, R-Georgetown.



CERTAIN FOREIGN NATIONALS NOW BANNED FROM BUYING LAND IN TEXAS

As of Sept. 1, people with ties to China, Iran, North Korea or Russia have been banned from buying most Texas property, including farmland, homes and commercial property, the Texas Standard reported. People in the state on student or work visas from those countries may buy a single home to live in but are barred from purchasing additional properties.

Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, authored the bill and called it "the strongest protection national security bill of any state passed."

If a person violates the law, they could face a state jail felony and fines.

Two Chinese nationals living in Texas filed suit in July, arguing the ban violates constitutional protections.

"It's discriminating against Chinese people, it's discriminating against immigrants," said Justin Sadowsky, legal director at the Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance and attorney for the plaintiffs.

The suit was dismissed by a federal judge in August, but the plaintiffs have taken the case to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

NEW PROPOSED BAN ON THC HAS STALLED

A bill to ban hemp-derived THC products in the state has stalled with the state's top two officials at loggerheads over the issue. The Houston Chronicle reported that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick is still pushing a ban after Abbott vetoed a similar bill in the regular session. Abbott called the first special session after vetoing

the THC ban, arguing instead for a more regulated approach.

"The regulated market would be very comprehensive," Abbott said. "It would regulate it at the farming-based level, the wholesale level, the distributor and the retailer."

A total ban would affect more than 8,500 businesses across the state that sell hemp-derived products, some of which contain amounts of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis.

While Patrick and Abbott have largely agreed in the past on major issues, that is not the case with the THC ban. Patrick said this is "probably the biggest one we've ever disagreed on, particularly openly."

EAST TEXAS WATER EXPORT DELAYED BY STUDY

An attempt by a Dallas investor to export East Texas groundwater likely will be delayed at least two years after lawmakers approved a water development board study of the plan's effects. The Chronicle reported state Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, authored the bill after investor Kyle Bass applied for exploratory permits for wells that could pump more groundwater in Anderson and Henderson counties than was now available.

The Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer spans East Texas from Louisiana to Mexico, supplying many towns in that region with groundwater. The bill requires TWDB to determine how much groundwater can be pumped "in perpetuity" without affecting the local groundwater district's 50-year plan.

Harris has also filed legislation to overturn the rule of capture. That rule has historically allowed landowners to pump however much groundwater is below their property, even if it negatively affects their neighbors. He said he intends to address the rule of capture during the 2027 session.

"We really do need to take the interim and the full session to have those hard debates that are going to come," he said.

HOUSE OKS MAKING IVERMECTIN AVAILABLE WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

The House last week passed a bill that would make ivermectin, used primarily to treat livestock for parasites but sometimes prescribed to humans, available to Texans without a prescription. The Tribune reported the vote came after a lively debate along party lines. Its sponsor, state Rep. Joanne Shofner, R-Nacogdoches, argued her bill championed medical freedom.

The drug gained popularity during the pandemic as a treatment for COVID-19 before a vaccine was available. Prior to the pandemic, it had been used as a treatment for humans carrying certain tropical or subtropical parasites.

If signed into law, ivermectin would not be on the counter but could be dispensed without a prescription at pharmacies, similarly to how cold and cough medicines like pseudoephedrine are given.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Memories of Horseradish



Yesterday, I saw a bunch of cousins.

I have a lot of cousins. A few have died by now, but I started out with 36 cousins, and only two were on my father's side.

My mother came from a large farm family, and her brothers and sisters had a lot of children, and so I got to have a lot of cousins while I was growing up. I thought it was normal, having this second layer of siblings that I would see up at the farm. We ate sitting on the stairs, because there were many more people than chairs. We picked eggs and played in the haymow together.

Because there were so many cousins, we grouped together by age, hanging out only with those cousins a year older or younger. Most of my cousins were older than me. They were cool and listened to rock music behind closed bedroom doors and brought boyfriends to the farm and paid no attention to me whatsoever. The cousins younger than me were small and annoying and not able to keep up. You can afford to be selective when you have so many cousins to choose from.

After I got older, I didn't see my cousins as often. While they were raising families and busy with their jobs and moving to different parts of the country, I only kept in touch with one or two cousins, and eventually I didn't even hear from them too often.

But now everyone is getting older and, particularly since a few cousins have died and so many of our parents have passed, it seems like the cousins are making more of an effort to stay connected. I love this.

Because coming from a large family, I feel as if I only hold one tiny piece of my family history. My cousins remind me of all the things I have forgotten and tell me things I never knew.

"I remember horseradish at the farm," I told my cousin, Tim. "But I don't remember what we ate it with."

"Grandma grew it," Tim confirmed. "And Grandpa ate it on his eggs."

"On his eggs!" This was news to me. I love horseradish, and now I'm going to try it on my eggs.

We don't spend all our time reminiscing about horseradish. The years between the older, cool cousins and the younger, annoying ones have disappeared, and we talk about leaving jobs and downsizing homes and watching the nieces and nephews do interesting things. These cousins all look a lot like me. Many of them have the same blue eyes of our Swedish grandparents, and we grew up eating the same vegetables grown in an oversized garden and lots of eggs (with or without horseradish).

Now I see us all growing older in the same ways and feel as if I'm part of a sample group, selected at birth, chosen to go through life together. We convene at irregular intervals from birth until death to compare our experiences and our shared memories of horseradish. The whole thing seems tenuous. And a little magical. And every year, more important.

We said our goodbyes and promised to get together again soon. Next year, we're planning to have a cousin reunion in Colorado, and I think that will be a lot of fun.

I don't know how long the ties of cousins will hold. Every gathering feels as if it might be the last. But my mother just saw her 90-year-old cousin last week, and they had a nice visit. I'm sure they still have a lot to talk about.

Till next time, Carrie

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 2:

SB champ Eagles host Cowboys to open NFL season: Texans open Ryans' third season on road against Rams

While the official start to the college football season dominated the headlines over Labor Day Weekend, the first week of September ushers in the start of the NFL season and what a first-week schedule Roger Goodell and Co. have provided us.

The league's 106th season begins Thursday in prime time when the defending Super Bowl champions host NFC East rival Dallas on NBC at 7:20 p.m. local time.

The Eagles are once again loaded and are the odds on favorite to represent the NFC in a second straight Super Bowl. The Cowboys enter the season with a new head coach in Brian Schottenheimer, who served as Dallas' offensive coordinator last season. The newest Dallas head coach will welcome back Dak Prescott at quarterback, who played just eight games a year ago after sustaining a hamstring injury against Atlanta in Week 9. Owner/GM Jerry Jones helped Prescott in the offseason by acquiring Steelers WR George Pickens, which will pair him with All Pro wideout CeedDee Lamb.

The biggest question mark in Dallas is whether star edge rusher Micah Parsons (12 sacks in 2024) will be on the field for the opener against the explosive Philly offense. Parsons and Jones have been embroiled in a nasty contract dispute, and as of this writing, neither side has budged. The Cowboys do have Parsons under control for this season and can franchise him in 2026, so the former oil barron does have a lot of leverage.

While Dallas and Philly open the season on Thursday night, the Chiefs and Chargers will open their seasons on Friday night in Brazil. LA could very well challenge Kansas City for the AFC West title this year under second-year head coach Jim Harbaugh, who led LA to the playoffs in his first season.

On Sunday, the Texans begin head coach DeMeco Ryans' third season as the two-time AFC South champs head out west to face the Los Angeles Rams at 3:25 p.m. Third-year QB C.J. Stroud will look to bounce back after a mediocre second year, and he has two new weapons in rookie wideouts Jaylin Noel and Jayden Higgins (6-4, 225 pounds) to pair with star wide receiver Nico Collins. Houston could have a top five defense this season and that unit will get a good test against the Rams and veteran QB Matthew Stafford.

The Sunday Night opener on NBC is a good one as Baltimore visits Buffalo in a rematch of last year's Divisional playoff game, which was won by the Bills, 27-25. The Monday Night Football opener features a good NFC North contest as the Vikings visit the up-and-coming Bears in Chicago.

The college schedule is a bit watered down after last weekend's big games. The two best games feature Kansas and Missouri and No. 14 Michigan visiting No. 18 Oklahoma.

So, let's take a look at this weekend's games.

NCAA

Kansas at Missouri - These two former Big 8 and Big 12 rivals meet on Saturday in Columbia, MO. Kansas is still in the Big 12, while Mizzou now resides in the SEC. The Jayhawks opened the season two weeks ago with a dominating 31-7 win over Fresno State in their \$405 million newly-renovated stadium. KU returns one of the top dual-threat QBs in the country in Jalon Daniels, (2,454 passing yards, 14 TDs/439 rushing yards, 6 TDs). In the season opener, Daniels passed for 176 yards and three TDs, while running back Leshon Williams picked up 57 yards on six carries and scored a touchdown. As a team, the Jayhawks rushed for 207 yards. The Tigers finished 10-3 a year ago, but lost a load of talent, most notably veteran QB Brady Cook and star wideout Luther Burden III, who was a second-round draft pick of the Bears. Missouri head coach Elijah Drinkwitz will choose between Beau Pribular and Sam Horn to handle the QB position and will look for running back Ahmad Hardy (1,351 yards, 13 TDs), a transfer from Louisiana-Monroe, to handle the ground game. Look for Daniels experience to be the difference maker in this one as the Jayhawks pick up a big road win. My pick, Kansas 26, Missouri 23.

Michigan at Oklahoma - No. 14 Michigan travels to Norman to take on No. 18 OU on Saturday in prime time on ABC (6:30 p.m.). This game features two head coaches who need big seasons, or their seats may get hot as the season progresses. UM's Sherrone



Moore is entering his second season as the Wolverine's head coach. He finished 8-5 a year ago, but did beat bitter rival Ohio State and upset Alabama in the Quest Bowl. This could be a key season for OU head coach Brent Venables, who in his first three years has only forged a 22-17 record (including two 6-7 seasons). Sooner fans are optimistic this year, mainly because of Washington State transfer QB John Mateer (3,139 yards, 29 TDs). OU will look for a big year from running back Taylor Tatum (278 yards, 3 TDs). Michigan has turned to redshirt freshman Bryce Undersoon (6-4, 228 yards) to run the offense. Underwood was the No. 1-rated QB coming out of high school in 2023. Michigan will be breaking in two new running backs in Justice Haynes and Jordan Marshall (130 yards as a reserve in '24). Look for the Sooners to pick up the win on Saturday night thanks to a raucous home crowd and Mateer. My pick, Oklahoma 24, Michigan 21

NFL

Dallas at Philadelphia - The 2025 season kicks off on Thursday night when the defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles host bitter division rival Dallas on NBC. The Eagles finished 18-3 a year ago and cruised to the Lombardi, dominating Kansas City 40-22 in New Orleans. Philly returns a solid core from that team, led by dual-threat QB Jalen Hurts (a Channelview native), who passed for 2,093 yards and 18 TDs and rushed for 630 yards and 14 scores. Also back is star running back Saquon Barkley (2,005 yards, 13 TDs/33 receptions, 278 yards, 22 TDs). Barkley may not produce those same numbers in '25, but he will once again be running behind the best offensive line in the NFL. Also back are wideouts A.J. Brown (67 receptions, 1,079 yards, 7 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (68 receptions, 833 yards, 8 TDs). Philly did suffer some key losses on the defensive line and in the secondary, but General Manager Howie Roseman filled those spots adequately. The Cowboys are coming off a 7-10 year, and hopefully will have a healthy Dak Prescott (1,978 yards, 11 TDs in eight games) back for the entire season. Prescott will once again have stud wideout CeedDee Lamb (101 receptions, 1,194 yards, 6 TDs) and another weapon in wide receiver George Pickens (63 receptions, 1,140 yards, 5 TDs), who the Cowboys acquired from the Steelers. If Dallas is to turn things around this year, they must run the ball better than they did a year ago, when the team combined for a woeful 6 total rushing TDs. Dallas brought in former Denver back Javonte Williams (513 yards, 4 TDs) to help turn things around. It remains to be seen if star edge rusher Micah Parsons (12 sacks) will play in the Philly game. He and owner Jerry Jones have spent training camp and the preseason locked in a contentious contract dispute. Parsons is under team control this year, so odds are he will be on the field come Thursday night. Even if Parsons does play, the Eagles will have too much offense for Dallas with which to deal and will open defense of their SB title with a nice opening-season win. My pick, Philadelphia 26, Dallas 23

Kansas City vs. Los Angeles Chargers - The Chiefs and Chargers open their seasons on Friday night in Brazil in an early-season AFC West division tilt. The Chiefs had all offseason to stew after their blowout loss in the Super Bowl, and you can bet that QB Patrick Mahomes (3,928 yards, 26 TDs/11 interceptions) and head coach Andy Reid focused on righting the ship this season. KC returns a strong nucleus with Mahomes, tight end Travis Kelce (97 receptions, 823 yards, 2 TDs) and speedy wideout Xavier Worthy (58 receptions, 638 yards, 6 TDs). The Chargers enter Jim Harbaugh's second year as head coach with their sights set on unseating KC atop the AFC West. They have the tools in place in QB Justin Herbert (3,870 yards, 23 TDs), wideouts Ladd McConkey (82 receptions, 1,149 yards, 7 TDs) and Quentin Johnson (55 receptions, 711 yards, 9 TDs). Their running game is improved with former Steeler Najee Harris (1,043 yards, 6 TDs) and rookie

Omar Hampton (1,660 rushing yards, 15 TDs/38 receptions, 373 yards, 2 TDs at North Carolina). This should be an entertaining game, but look for Mahomes to work his magic late to lead KC to a season-opening win. My pick, Kansas City 27, Los Angeles Chargers 23

Houston at Los Angeles

Rams - The Texans head to LaLa Land to open the '25 season against the Rams in a meeting of playoff teams from 2024. The Texans finished 11-8 a year ago and will be led by third-year QB C.J. Stroud (3,727 yards, 20 TDs) and wideout Nico Collins (68 receptions, 1,006 yards, 7 TDs in 12 games). General Manager Nick Caserio provided Stroud with some extra receiving help in the draft by acquiring the Iowa State duo of Jaylin Noel and Jayden Higgins (6-4, 225 pounds). Houston will be without starting running back Joe Mixon (1,016 yards, 11 TDs/36 receptions, 309 yards, 1 TD) for at least the first four games. Houston added former Browns RB Nick Chubb in the offseason with hopes he regains his Pro Bowl form after dealing with leg injuries the last two years. The Texans might have a top five defense led by edge rushers Danielle Hunter (12 sacks) and Will Anderson (11 sacks) and All-Pro cornerback Derek Stingley Jr. (5 interceptions). That unit will get a stern test from LA QB Matthew Stafford (3,762 yards, 20 TDs), running back Kyren Williams (1,297 yards, 14 TDs) and wideout Puka Nacua (79 receptions, 990 yards, 3 TDs). Stafford missed most of camp dealing with back issues. Look for the Houston defense to get after him early and often as the Texans open the season with a big road win. My pick, Houston 23, Los Angeles Rams 20

Baltimore at Buffalo - This is probably the Game of the Week in Week 1 as the Ravens and Bills meet on Sunday Night Football on NBC. The Bills, who will be playing their final season in Ralph Wilson Stadium, defeated the Ravens 27-25 in the Division round last year. This game features two MVP QBs in Baltimore's Lamar Jackson (4,172 passing yards, 41 TDs/915 rushing yards, 4 TDs) and Buffalo's Josh Allen (3,731 yards, 28 TDs/531 rushing yards, 12 TDs). Both teams have solid running backs in Derrick Henry (1,921 yards, 18 total TDs) and James Cook (1,009 yards, 16 TDs/32 receptions, 258 yards, 2 TDs). This should be a high-scoring game and will come down to which team makes a play or two on defense. I'm going with the Buffalo defense to be the difference maker in this game, but don't be surprised if these two teams meet once again in the playoffs come January. My pick, Buffalo 31, Baltimore 29

Minnesota at Chicago - Week one concludes with Monday Night Football with an NFC North contest between the Vikings and Bears in the Windy City. The Vikes will be breaking in a new QB in second-year man J.J. McCarthy, who missed his rookie season with a knee injury. McCarthy is an unknown, but has plenty of weapons to turn to in wide receiver Justin Jefferson (103 receptions, 1,533 yards, 10 TDs) and running back Aaron Jones (1,138 rushing yards, 5 TDs/51 receptions, 408 yards, 2 TDs). McCarthy won't have big-play wideout Jordan Addison for the first three games of the season because he's been suspended by the league for violating its personal conduct policy. Optimism is running high in Chicago over new head coach Ben Johnson, the former offensive coordinator for Detroit. Johnson was hired to get the most out of second-year QB Caleb Williams (3,541 yards, 20 TDs). Williams should benefit from Johnson's tutelage and could be in for a huge year, which should make Bears fans excited. Williams has weapons to turn to in running back D'Andre Swift (959 rushing yards, 6 TDs/43 receptions, 384 yards) and talented wideouts D.J. Moore (98 receptions, 966 yards, 6 TDs) and second-year man Rome Odunze (54 receptions, 734 yards, 3 TDs). Look for Odunze to have a breakout year in '25 and look for Williams to put on a show in prime time on Monday night. My pick, Chicago 30, Minnesota 27

Hometown Hero: JALEN HURTS

Jalen Hurts' Journey from College Backup to Super Bowl MVP Deserves a Deep Dive

Article by Jaron Holzer

Jalen Hurts' path to becoming a Super Bowl MVP encapsulates what it means to be a winner. Before hoisting the Lombardi Trophy following a 40-22 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LIX, Hurts overcame several unique challenges throughout his college and professional football careers.

Hurts began playing college football at the University of Alabama, where, in his freshman season, he accounted for over 3,700 total yards and 36 total touchdowns while leading the Crimson Tide to the National Championship Game. Hurts struggled to throw the ball effectively in the title game, however, and the Tide fell 35-31 to the Clemson Tigers.

The following year, Hurts led the Tide to another National Championship Game, during which he was benched for then Freshman quarterback Tua Tagovailoa after Hurts completed only three passes for 21 yards in the first half. Tagovailoa engineered a 13-point comeback, and Alabama defeated the Georgia Bulldogs 26-23 in an overtime thriller. Tagovailoa's title game heroics helped him earn the starting quarterback job the following season, which meant Hurts would serve as his backup.

With Tagovailoa at the helm, the Crimson Tide had yet another successful season and earned a spot in the 2018 SEC Championship Game. After Tagovailoa went down with an ankle injury early in the fourth quarter of that game, Hurts led the Crimson Tide to a miraculous comeback victory in a role reversal from the National Championship Game nearly eleven months prior.

Following his masterful completion of this full circle moment, Hurts transferred to Oklahoma for the 2019 season to play for Head Coach and offensive guru Lincoln Riley. That year, Hurts had an ex-



tremely successful campaign that culminated in him finishing second in Heisman Trophy voting behind LSU Quarterback and future number one overall draft pick Joe Burrow. Hurts was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in the second round of the 2020 NFL Draft. He served as their backup quarterback for the majority of his rookie year, and Hurts was named the team's full-time starter prior to entering his second season in the NFL.

After leading the Eagles to the Wild Card Round of the NFL Playoffs in his first year at the helm, Hurts powered his team to Super Bowl LVII in his second season as the starter. He had a monster Super Bowl performance, which included 374 total yards and 4 total touchdowns, but Hurts and the Eagles ultimately fell short to Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs 38-35.

Coming off their tight Super Bowl loss, the Eagles started the 2023 NFL season a scorching hot 10-1 before losing 5 of their last 6 games and being bounced in the Wild Card Round yet again. The Eagles' late-season struggles prompted backlash toward Jalen Hurts and Head Coach Nick Sirianni from fans and analysts alike, who questioned whether

Hurts and Sirianni could win the Eagles a Super Bowl.

With the addition of Pro Bowl running back Saquon Barkley to their backfield, Hurts and the 2024 Eagles posted a remarkable 14-3 regular season record. The Eagles then cruised through the playoffs and found themselves facing a familiar foe, the Kansas City Chiefs, in Super Bowl LIX. Hurts was masterful in that game, totaling 293 yards and 3 touchdowns while leading the Eagles to a 40-22 victory and winning Super Bowl MVP.

Jalen Hurts' journey from being benched at halftime of a college football national championship game to winning Super Bowl MVP is a story of hardship and triumph, as well as a clear demonstration of Hurts' relentless competitive grit. Despite the extraordinary success Hurts has achieved so far, there's no doubt that the 26-year-old quarterback is motivated to win more Super Bowls in the years to come.

Jaron Holzer is a Management Student in the Hough Graduate School of Business at the University of Florida. He enjoys watching and writing about football, as well as playing softball and basketball recreationally.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Friday, Aug. 29
 Barbers Hill 28, New Caney 14
 Baytown Lee 41, South Houston 20
 Dayton 28, Crosby 20
 Goose Creek Memorial 42, Baytown Sterling 20
 La Marque 49, Huffman Hargrave
 Pasadena Memorial 22, Channelview 19

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

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Rep. Garcia's Town Halls show results of Redistricting

Virtual Town Hall connects Congresswoman to constituents

In a virtual town hall meeting held via Zoom, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia addressed her constituents, providing crucial updates on various issues affecting the community. The event, which saw active participation from civic club leaders and community members, covered a wide range of topics, from legislative updates to community support initiatives.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was Congresswoman Garcia's update on the ongoing redistricting efforts. She expressed her concerns about the proposed congressional maps, which she believes are designed to dilute the political power of Latino and urban voters. Garcia criticized the current administration's approach, stating that "the new maps would unfairly benefit the Republican Party by adding five new congressional seats in Texas."

Garcia also touched on the impact of recent legislation passed by the administration, which she referred to as the "big ugly bill." She highlighted the negative consequences of the bill, including an in-

crease in the national debt and significant cuts to healthcare and food assistance programs. According to Garcia, the bill would result in millions of Americans losing their healthcare coverage and facing higher living costs.

In addition to legislative updates, Congresswoman Garcia shared the efforts of her office in assisting constituents with various federal issues. She reported that her office had opened 359 cases and closed 214 in the past year, helping residents with matters related to the Veterans Administration, immigration, Social Security, and the IRS.

The virtual town hall also featured a guest appearance by State Representative Christina Morales, who provided insights into the redistricting battle from the perspective of the Texas House. Morales emphasized the importance of breaking quorum to prevent the passage of the proposed maps and highlighted the support they were receiving from other states.

Throughout the meeting, Congresswoman Garcia encouraged community



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia will keep her seat in the new redistricting, she said at this Town Hall at San Jacinto College North.

members to stay engaged and make their voices heard. She urged them to reach out to their representatives, participate in peaceful demonstrations, and stay informed about the issues affecting their community.

The virtual town hall concluded with a Q&A session, where Congresswoman Garcia and Representative Morales addressed questions from attendees. They reiterated their commitment to fighting for the rights of their constituents and ensuring

that their voices are represented in the legislative process.

Overall, the virtual town hall provided a platform for Congresswoman Garcia to connect with her constituents, share important updates, and rally support for the ongoing battles in Washington and Texas. The event underscored the importance of community engagement and the need for collective action in the face of challenging times.

--NORTHEAST NEWS/ David Taylor

Democrats forced to compete against one another for one seat

Texas congressional map pits Democratic incumbents against each other, spelling possible primary clashes.

In their new congressional map, Texas Republicans are forging red districts in Central Texas, Dallas and Houston that would push a handful of Democratic incumbents into nearby districts already occupied by another Democrat.

The new configuration would leave Democratic members in those regions with the uncomfortable prospect of battling each other for the dwindling seats in next year's primaries; retiring; or taking their chances in nearby GOP-leaning districts where they would face uphill battles for political survival.

For now, Texas Democrats are focused on fighting to stop the map. It will surely face legal challenges which could further change the makeup of districts.

But if the new lines go through for 2026, they could pit long-serving older members of the Texas delegation against younger newcomers, drudging up existing tensions in the Democratic Party over age and seniority.

And in Houston, the Democrat who emerges from the 18th Congressional District's November special election could see their time in office abruptly cut short. The 18th District has a storied history, as the first southern district to send a Black woman — the legendary Rep. Barbara Jordan — to Congress. Several prominent Black Democrats have since held the seat, including longtime Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, who died last year. The district has been vacant since March after Jackson Lee's successor, former Houston mayor Sylvester Turner, also died in office.

But with Republicans packing Democrats into three blue Houston-area seats rather than their current four, the winner in the 18th District's special election — which will decide who finishes out Turner's term — could end up in a primary a few months later against one of the more experienced incumbent Democrats or face pressure to bow out.

No Texas Democrats have announced how they would handle the musical chairs scenario the new map would trigger. But with a Dec. 11 deadline to file for next year's midterms — and pressure from donors and party leaders likely to force their hands well before then — they will have to ponder their futures quickly.

The new map could compel members to retire, change districts or run for a different office rather than face a bruising primary against a colleague.

HOUSTON
The new map could create a messy logjam among Houston Democrats, who are currently down a member because of the vacancy in the solidly Democratic 18th Congressional District.

Democrats represent three other congressional seats in the Houston area: Rep. Lizzie Fletcher in the 7th District, Green in the 9th District and Rep. Sylvia Garcia in the 29th District.

All four seats were redrawn under the GOP's new proposed map, with Green's district undergoing the biggest change. Currently centered in south Houston and cities to the south in Fort Bend and Brazoria counties, the proposed 9th District contains just 2% of the land area and 3% of the people currently represented by Green.

The new district would be based in east Harris County, absorbing conservative territory from GOP districts in the Houston suburbs and exurbs and putting the seat in line to be represented by a Republican. What is now a district Harris won by 44 percentage points would become one that voted for Trump by a 15-point margin.

Fletcher's seat would still favor Democrats and contain about three-quarters of her current district. And Garcia's 29th District was drawn to be even more favorable to Democrats: While about 60% of her constituents would be moved elsewhere and the district would lose its longtime Hispanic-majority status, the 74-year-old Garcia would still live within the new lines and remain safe from Republican challengers.

Most of Green's territory, however, was redrawn into the 18th Congressional District, which several Democrats are vying to represent in its current form in a November special election. But whoever wins could be pitted against Green in the March primary — which will decide who represents the district starting in 2027 — if he opts to shift districts.

In a statement, the 77-year-old Green said he "will be on the ballot" and would announce his plans after taking time to deliberate.

Now in his 11th two-year term, Green's de facto incumbency could be difficult for any newcomer to overcome.

—Texas Tribune/Gabby Birenbaum

Crosby-Huffman Chamber and LyondellBasell Celebrate Ribbon Cutting in Channelview



Members of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce joined LyondellBasell representatives for their ribbon cutting ceremony last Tuesday at the plant in Channelview.

Rotary Washer Tourney Saturday Sept. 13

Highlands Rotary Club will hold their annual 3-Hole Washer Board Charity Tournament on Saturday, September 13, 2025 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

The Tournament starts at 1:00pm Sharp, at Charlie's Ice House, 906 N. Main Street in Highlands.

All teams must register and sign in no later than 12:30pm the day of the tournament. TEAMS: 2 person teams, \$50 per team entry, Double Elimination rules. Awards and Prize Money for the top 3 teams, \$150, \$100, and \$50.

Contact Patricia Scott at plscott1957@gmail.com to enter or for info.

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Pamela Anderson, left, and Liam Neeson star in "The Naked Gun."

"EDDINGTON" (R) — "Elevated horror" director Ari Aster's latest film is deemed a "neo-Western black comedy thriller," which seems directly on brand if you've seen any of his previous works ("Hereditary" and "Midsommar"). Even though it starred a handful of Hollywood's most popular actors, such as Joaquin Phoenix, Pedro Pascal, Austin Butler and Emma Stone, it bombed at the box office, not even making up half of its budget. However, critics gave the film mostly positive reviews and praised how it showcased a growing problem in our current society: the way our digital world shapes our political climate, both locally and federally. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

"The Naked Gun"

"THE NAKED GUN" (PG-13) — For fans of the Leslie Nielsen series "The Naked Gun" and those who enjoy slapstick comedy (hard pass for me), this action-comedy reboot should be first on your watchlist this week! Starring Liam Neeson ("Absolution") and Pamela Anderson ("The Last Showgirl"), the film follows Lt. Frank Drebin's (Nielsen) son, Frank Drebin Jr. (Neeson), as he investigates the death of a software engineer. Also joining the investigation in a discreet way is the software engineer's sister, Beth (Anderson), who is convinced that her brother's death wasn't a suicide. As their interrogations lead them closer to the truth, Frank and Beth also get to enjoy a bit of romance — not unlike their real-life counterparts who announced that they were dating during the film's press cycle. Available to rent on Sept. 2. (YouTube)

"F1: THE MOVIE" (PG-13) — Sleek director Joseph Kosinski ("Top Gun: Maverick" and "Spiderhead") signed on the most elusive cool guy in Hollywood, Brad Pitt, to be his leading man in his latest release, which is out now to rent. This sports-drama film follows F1 driver Sonny Hayes (Pitt), who is coaxed into coming out of retirement after 30 years to race in the underdog team APXGP. The owner of APXGP is his former teammate Ruben Cervantes (Javier Bardem), which is why he extends Ruben the favor, but his new teammate, rookie Joshua Pearce (Damson Idris), does not plan to make this an easy return for him. The film became the highest-grossing film of Pitt's career, earning \$603.4 million worldwide at the time of this writing. (Amazon Prime Video)

"THE PAPER" (TV-14) — Who can believe that in the year of 2025, we'd be experiencing a spin-off to the series "The Office"? It looks like audiences find great comfort in mockumentary sitcoms because it only took a year for Peacock to put together the series, with help from key players/executive producers Greg Daniels (developer of "The Office") and Ricky Gervais (who starred in the British version of the series from 2001 to 2003). The spin-off centers around the Toledo Truth-Teller, a Midwestern paper struggling to stay afloat. The new editor-in-chief Ned Sampson (Domhnall Gleeson) is ready to shake things up, and by the look of its undertrained staff, he has a lot of work ahead of him. All 10 episodes will be available to stream starting Sept. 4. (Peacock) (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q: When is Ted Danson's "A Man on the Inside" returning? Will it have the same cast as the first season? — Y.B.

A:Netflix quickly renewed "A Man on the Inside" after its debut season but with a few changes to its supporting cast. Ted Danson, of course, will return, as will Mary Elizabeth Ellis as his daughter, Emily. According to TVLine, Danson's character goes undercover this time as a professor when the college's president (played by Max Greenfield of "The Neighborhood") is blackmailed.

Gary Cole ("Veep") has also joined the cast as a billionaire, and Mary Steenburgen ("The Last Man on Earth"), who is married to Danson in real life, will play a free-spirited music teacher. Other new additions include Jason Mantzoukas ("The Good Place"), Constance Marie ("George Lopez"), and David Strathairn ("Billions").

All eight episodes of season two of "A Man on the Inside" will be available to binge on Netflix beginning on Nov. 20. ***

Q:What is this new series (I'm assuming a drama) about the NFL that Hulu is developing? Didn't the NFL make ESPN cancel a similar series about 20 years ago because they didn't like how the NFL was portrayed? — A.K.

A: Back in 2004, ESPN canceled its hit drama series "Playmakers" after just one season reportedly for the reason you stated. NFL executives didn't care for how the league and its fictional players were portrayed. Even though the show never mentioned the letters N, F or L in the script, the subject matter (drugs, sex and concussions) wasn't well-received by the NFL commissioner at the time, Paul Tagliabue.

Now, 20 years later, Dan Fogelman, the creative mind behind the hit series "This Is Us" and "Paradise," is in the midst of casting a new drama set in the world of pro football. The cast looks impressive with several Emmy Award winners and nominees in the mix. William H. Macy ("Shameless") will play owner/patriarch Hank Durkin, opposite Chris Meloni's ("Law & Order: Organized Crime") head coach. Mandy Moore from "This Is Us" has also recently been cast.



"A Man on the Inside"

Perhaps the as-yet-untitled Hulu series will find room for some of the cast of "Playmakers," who prematurely and unfairly lost their jobs — like Tony Denison ("Major Crimes"), who played Coach George, and Omar Gooding ("Deadwood"), who played a star running back in what is considered his breakout role. ***

Q: Is Kelly Clarkson's daytime talk show coming back soon? I hope it wasn't canceled. — M.M.

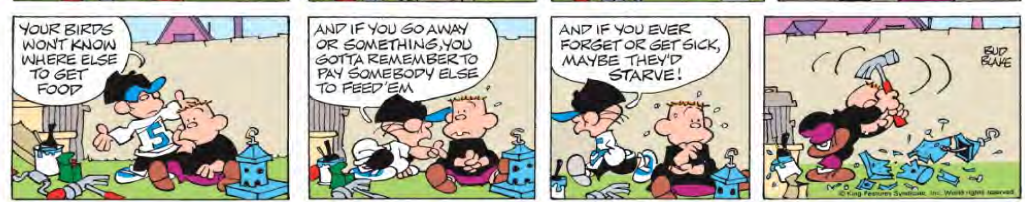
A:Yes, "The Kelly Clarkson Show" will return sometime this September with tapings before an audience beginning on Sept. 10. However, the show isn't live. Clarkson returns after the loss of her children's father, Brandon Blackstock, to cancer in August. She stepped away from her residency in Las Vegas to care for her kids during this difficult time.

She's also set to return to "The Voice" alongside fellow judges John Legend and Adam Levine. It premieres its new season on Sept. 22 on NBC.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and difficulty instructions

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip with a find-the-differences puzzle

September 1, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Chickpeas or fava beans; 2. Italy; 3. The Swamp; 4. A cob; 5. James Joyce; 6. 9; 7. To carry oxygen; 8. COVID-19 pandemic; 9. Hydrochloric acid; 10. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (William Pitt the Elder)

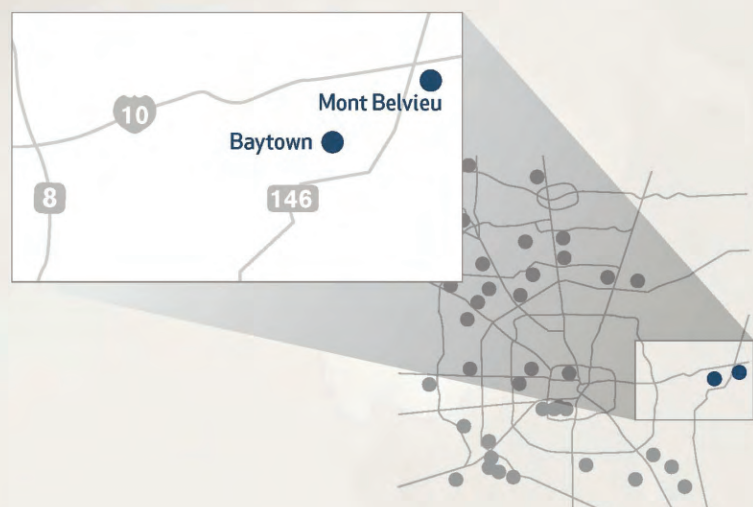
Trivia test questions and answers



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