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Fox Friday Football fever reporter with the Goose Creek Memorial HS Patriot Football team, See on Page 2.

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HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## Goose Creek, Crosby Districts Move to Dismiss Teachers

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Two east Harris County school districts have initiated termination proceedings against teachers following controversial remarks related to the recent death of political activist Charlie Kirk. On September 11, 2025, Goose Creek CISD began investigating Lee High School English teacher Jennifer Courtemanche after reports surfaced of inappropriate comments made on social media about the tragedy. The

district received hundreds of communications, some threatening, demanding the teacher's immediate dismissal. The teacher was suspended that morning and has not returned to work. After a swift investigation, the administration determined the teacher's conduct violated district standards and constituted good cause for termination.

In a rare vote by the school board, only board members Mercedes Renteria and Richard Clem supported the termina-

tion, while the others abstained. Board member Jessie Martinez was absent from the meeting. According to TEA, the two affirmative votes were enough to support the motion to dismiss Courtemanche.

Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien informed parents that the district remains committed to an inclusive and hate-free environment.

Another teacher accused of insensitive remarks was not recommended for termination, as their com-

ments, according to the district, did not meet the threshold for dismissal.

Courtemanche, facing termination, has retained legal counsel and does not intend to resign voluntarily. Under Texas law, the teacher is entitled to a hearing before an independent examiner, ensuring due process before any final decision is made.

At a special called meeting of the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees, they voted to propose the termination of Jacqueline Brookreson, a probationary English Language

Arts teacher at Crosby High School.

State Representative Briscoe Cain publicly called for the dismissal of both teachers following comments they made online about Charlie Kirk.

"The parents and taxpayers in Crosby deserve to have schools with real teachers, not woke indoctrinators," he said in a post on his Facebook account.

The district did not disclose specific details, but it confirmed that the matter is unrelated to social media. Brookreson will

remain on administrative leave during the legally required termination process.

Both districts emphasized their commitment to professional integrity and compliance with Texas Education Code, which mandates a strict process for teacher dismissals, including the right to a hearing before any contract is terminated.

These cases highlight the heightened scrutiny educators face regarding public statements and the importance of due process in employment decisions.

## Huffman Hargrave and Crosby High School Announce 2025 Homecoming Royalty



Huffman Hargrave High School crowned Zachary Casas and Mari Toliver as 2025 Homecoming King and Queen at halftime last Friday night. Other nominees included Sawyer Callens, Carly Cunningham, Kendall Pagett, Cesar Garcia, Kian Futerfas, and Luke Werner. Class of 2027 Prince and Princess was Rickey McGrew and Aubri York. Class of 2028 Duke and Duchess was Nathan Figueroa and Avery Ellzey. Class of 2029 Lord and Lady was Corbett Wade and Jacey Walker.



Congratulations to the Huffman 2025 Homecoming Queen & King



Crosby 2025 Homecoming



Crosby High School Senior Homecoming King and Queen for 2025 is Hector Gonzalez and Saniya Carrington, both members of the Class of 2026. They are pictured with Superintendent Dr. Paula Patterson and Crosby High School principal Brad Hadnot.

### GOOSE CREEK SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE Investing in Our Community's Future

The school year is off to a fantastic start, and as I catch my breath, I have taken a moment to reflect on my professional journey, specifically with Goose Creek CISD being the proud capstone of my career.

My earliest recollection of driving down Garth Road during my first visit to Baytown is still vivid in my mind. I remember a cluster of longhorn cattle grazing in an open pasture near Archer Road, set against the backdrop of commercial and industrial growth that is so much a part of this community. That first impression reflected Baytown's unique character, a place where tradition and progress co-exist.

As I learned more about the city, I came to understand how deeply Baytown values its families. The city's investment in parks



Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Randal O'Brien

and recreation, its historic landmarks, and the warmth of its people all drew me to serve as superintendent of schools here.

From the landmark Fred Hartman Bridge to our more than 1,000 acres of parkland forming 50 unique neighborhood green spaces, Baytown stands as a testament to forward-thinking leadership and a commitment to

our quality of life. Blessed with a higher education institution on our doorstep, Lee College further enriches the opportunities available to our students and families.

The upcoming city bond election represents a comprehensive investment in Baytown's future, addressing not only our infrastructure and quality of life but also the future of our workforce, local business environment, and educational opportunities. These proposals focus on improving major roadways, enhancing neighborhood streets, upgrading drainage systems, modernizing public safety facilities, and expanding parks, sports complexes, and educational nature facilities that support family recreation, tourism, as well as student learning.

Continued. See Goose Creek Superintendent, Page 2

### Dan Mims Enters Race for Texas's 9th Congressional District

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The race for Texas's newly redrawn 9th Congressional District has become even more competitive as Dan Mims, a lifelong Texan, businessman, and community leader, officially launches his campaign. Mims joins the contest alongside State Representative Briscoe Cain and Alexandra del Moral Mealer, expanding the Republican field for this key congressional seat.

"Washington, D.C. has become a three-headed monster of regulations, taxes, and lawyers that strangles small businesses and workers. I know firsthand that our entrepreneurs, educators, and workers—not bureaucrats—hold the key to Texas's future. That's why I'm running: to help President Trump complete his 'America First' agenda, bring some conservative commonsense to Washington, fight for jobs and opportunity, and put Texas values first," Mims said in his campaign announcement.

Alexandra del Moral Mealer, a current METRO board member and previous Harris County judge candidate, is also in

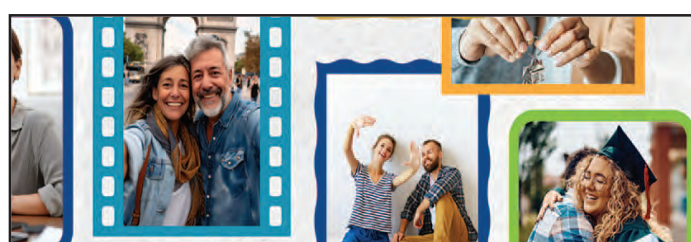


Dan Mims, getting in the race for Texas's 9th Congressional District.

the race, though she does not reside within the district and refers to herself as a "dark horse." State Rep. Briscoe Cain, who has represented much of the area in District 128, hails from Deer Park. Mims, meanwhile, is a Channelview native, graduate of Channelview High School, and has served as chairman, officer, and trustee of the San Jacinto College District board.

Continued. See Dan Mims joins growing field for, Page 2

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# Superintendent Reflects on growth, and Baytown's bright future,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

By combining local funding with grants and partnerships from other agencies, these propositions aim to deliver long-needed infrastructure and quality-of-life improvements at a reduced cost to taxpayers. Collectively, they represent a significant step toward strengthening Baytown's transportation network, community amenities, and economic vitality for years to come.

As superintendent, I see every day how these partnerships matter. When our city and local college thrive, our schools, students, and families thrive as well. I encourage our

community to stay informed about the bond election and to participate in shaping Baytown's future. Together, we can ensure that the welcoming, family-oriented spirit that drew me here to Goose Creek continues to grow and benefit generations to come.

Reflecting our shared commitment to civic engagement, Goose Creek CISD will hold a professional development day on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4. This calendar day will incorporate flex time for all staff members to be able to cast their votes in the upcoming election. As a school district,

we have adopted a resolution aimed at cultivating a culture of active participation among our staff and community. We would like to thank you for taking the time to engage in professional learning while also exercising your right to vote.

Over the past decade of growth, I have seen so many wonderful things happening within our community, not to deny that we have certainly overcome some obstacles as well. Maybe it's just my positive outlook on life, but I truly believe great things are ahead for our community!

# GCCISD Board of Trustees Opens Community Survey for Superintendent Search

"The selection of our next superintendent is one of the most important responsibilities we have as a Board," said Jim Campisi, President of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees. "To make the best decision, we need to hear directly from the families, staff, and community members we serve."

To ensure every voice is included in this process, the Board of Trustees invites the broader community to participate in an online survey open from **October 2-9, 2025**. The survey provides families, staff, and community members the opportunity to share their perspectives on the qualities, priorities, and expectations for the district's next leader.

The Board engaged Thompson & Horton LLP, a search firm specializing in superintendent searches, to help guide this process. In addition to the survey, the firm has facilitated focus groups with staff, students, parents, and community leaders selected by the board. All input collected will be carefully reviewed and considered as part of the superintendent selection process.

The survey is anonymous and can be accessed through the district's website at [www.gccisd.net](http://www.gccisd.net) on the Superintendent Search page.

"We are committed to selecting the very best superintendent to lead Goose Creek CISD into the future," added Campisi. "This is a critical moment for our district, and your input will help shape the vision for years to come."

For more information about the superintendent search process, please visit the Goose Creek CISD website.

# AI Experts Inspire Local Businesses at Chamber Luncheon

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor



Brad explains the advantages of using artificial intelligence to assist with numerous processes involved with most businesses, giving them a competitive advantage.

The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce welcomed two dynamic guests at its recent luncheon, offering members a firsthand look at how artificial intelligence is transforming the business landscape. Brad, founder of Midas Web, and Monique Carlisle, a seasoned educator and operational lead, captivated the audience with their insights on leveraging AI for growth, efficiency, and innovation.

Brad, whose career spans global maritime and oil and gas data visualization to coaching solopreneurs, shared his journey of founding Midas Web in 2000 and reinvigorating the company with AI in 2023. His passion for empowering small businesses with cutting-edge technology set the tone for a presentation focused on practical applications of AI.

Monique Carlisle, with over 20 years in education, brought a unique perspective on operational excellence. She emphasized her commitment to helping nonprofits and businesses streamline their processes using AI, enabling owners to focus on client-facing work rather than tedious administrative tasks.

The presenters challenged attendees to think beyond the basics of AI, such as social media posts and email automation.

Brad asked, "How many of you are using AI for data analytics, product strategy, or business strategizing?" A few hands went up,

highlighting the untapped potential in the room.

Monique explained that AI can be integrated into every aspect of business, from product development and market research to data analysis and pricing strategy. She shared stories of business owners who used AI tools like ChatGPT and Perplexity to conduct competitor analysis and market research in minutes—tasks that previously took days.

A highlight of the presentation was a practical guide to "prompt engineering"—the art of asking AI the right questions. Brad and Monique outlined four essential elements for effective prompts: defining the task, specifying the role (such as "seasoned blog writer" or "market analyst"), providing context, and setting clear expectations. They encouraged business owners to create dossiers on their companies to give AI the background needed for tailored solutions.

The discussion moved to automation, with Monique illustrating how AI-powered systems can handle everything from invoice tracking to smart segmenting of marketing campaigns. She described the benefits of all-in-one platforms that integrate websites, sales processes, contracts, and marketing, all supported by AI.

Brad introduced this concept of "agentic AI," which allows businesses to program AI agents to act as virtual team members,

handling research, posting content, monitoring inventory, and more—autonomously and around the clock. He explained that for as little as \$20 a month, businesses can deploy unlimited AI agents, each working as the equivalent of dozens of full-time employees.

The presenters invited attendees to upcoming workshops, including hands-on classes where participants build AI agents for their own businesses. They emphasized the value of interactive learning, offering free trials of their automation platform and ongoing support through daily Zoom calls.

Monique and Brad also addressed questions about integration, explaining that most business software can be connected using middleware tools like Zapier or N8N, provided they support open APIs. They assured the audience that their services are contract-free and tailored to each client's needs, with frequent learner programs and custom team training available.

The luncheon concluded with a call to action: embrace AI and automation to stay competitive, save time, and focus on what matters most—serving customers and growing the business.

"If you're not growing your business with these tools and your competitors are, who do you think has the advantage?" Brad asked.

# Goose Creek Memorial HS Patriots Spotlited on Fox Friday Football Fever Broadcast



Fox Friday Football Fever reporter gets cheers from the GCM Dazzlers. (Photos by: Brittney Culpepper)

Story by: Nancy Bonds,  
GCCISD Director of Communications

Goose Creek Memorial High School was recently in the spotlight as Fox Friday Football Fever broadcast live from the GCM campus, showcasing the school's incredible spirit and pride. The pep rally-style celebration featured the GCM Patriot Band, Cheerleaders, and Dazzlers dance team, with the football coaching staff, faculty, and staff members joining in to cheer on the Patriots.

The live segment captured the energy of the GCM community, while follow-up interviews with Head Coach Jay'Mond Cleveland and senior athletes highlighted the team's growth and goals for the remainder of the season. The Patriots are currently off to a strong 3-1 start this year.

Coach Cleveland reflected on the program's transformation:

"We have made such a remarkable change in such a short amount of time, and I credit it all to the



Pictured, from left, Senior Offensive Lineman, Luis Amaya, Head Football Coach, Jay'Mond Cleveland, and Senior Wide Receiver, Joshua Babin. (Photos by: Brittney Culpepper)

coaching staff and the kids. They bought in from day one. We have a brand of playing with a great attitude, relentless effort, and toughness that can never be questioned," Cleveland said.

He added, "I am proud of my kids, and I love my kids. I am really happy to be here and grateful for the opportunity to lead them."

Beyond the field, the Patriots have demonstrated excellence in the classroom and across campus. The team has excelled not only on the field but also

in the classroom, where players have shown accountability and leadership.

Senior wide receiver Joshua Babin described the moment as a turning point:

"It's a momentous occasion. With a new coach and a big turnaround, this shows how far we've come," Babin said. "We know we are in the toughest district in Texas, but we also know that we can compete with those teams."

Senior offensive lineman Luis Amaya echoed

the pride in being featured:

"It really just feels earned. We started all this in January with a whole new coaching staff. We've already changed history at GCM football," Amaya said. "Our goal is to keep getting better one game at a time, one play at a time, focusing on the small details."

The pep rally broadcast brought together students, athletes, teachers, and staff to celebrate the Patriots' success and highlight the growth of the GCM football program. The event showcased not only athletic achievement, but also the unity and school pride that define the Patriot community.

With district play underway, the Patriots are determined to build on their strong 3-1 start. Focused on one game at a time, the team hopes to continue its momentum and make this a season to remember for the Goose Creek Memorial community. The video from the broadcast can be found here:

[fox26houston.com/video/1718350](https://fox26houston.com/video/1718350)

# Dan Mims joins growing field for 9th District race,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After graduating from Texas A&M, Mims returned home to help grow his family's business, Mims Meat Company, transforming it into a leading foodservice distributor serving over 1,200 clients across southeast Texas. Under his leadership, the company reached \$50 million in annual sales and created hundreds of local jobs. He also managed Mims Investment Inc., focusing on property and cold storage logistics.

Mims has long been dedicated to education, spending decades supporting San Jacinto College. He played a pivotal role in passing a \$425 million bond referendum that modernized campus facilities and expanded opportunities for students to become job ready. His leadership helped earn San Jacinto College national recognition as a Rising Star by the Aspen Institute, distinguishing it as one of the country's top community colleges.

"I've been creating jobs and getting people job ready for 40 years. I can tell you the best way to do that is to get Washington out of the way. I'll fight for less regulation, a secure border and letting taxpay-

ers and businesses keep more of our hard-earned money," Mims added.

Community service has also been a cornerstone of Mims's career. As past president of the North Shore Rotary Club, he contributed to local scholarships. He has served on the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo as vice chair and committee member, supporting youth, agriculture, and Texas traditions. Mims has also held leadership roles in the Greater Houston Restaurant Association, UniPro Foodservice, the Texas Community and Technical College Leadership Council, the Association of Community College Trustees, and the Community College Association of Texas Trustees.

A native of Channelview, Mims says his Texas upbringing taught him the values of faith, hard work, and perseverance that continue to shape his approach. He and his wife Mary have raised their family in southeast Texas, where he remains active as a husband, father, grandfather, and community leader.

Learn more at [www.danmimsfortexas.com](http://www.danmimsfortexas.com).

# Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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## ON THE HILL

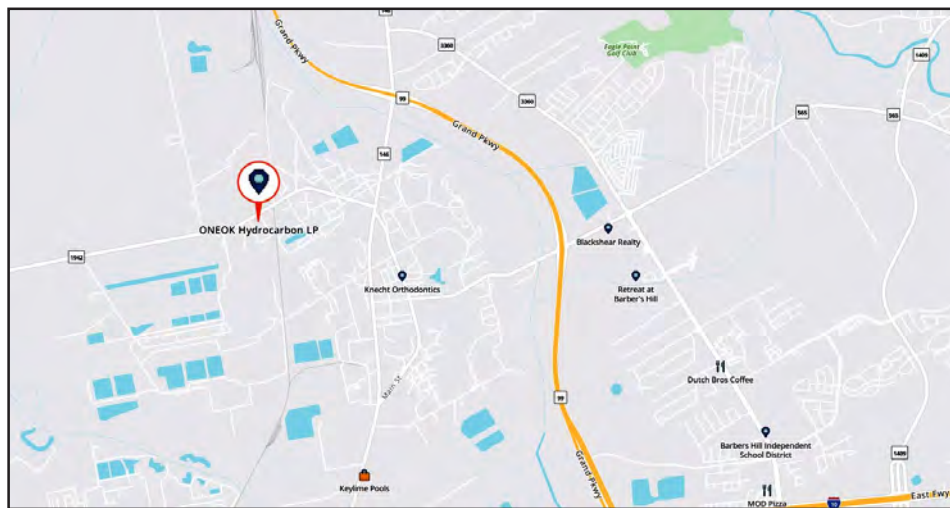
# Explosion at ONEOK facility in Mont Belvieu Injures Three

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Late Monday morning, an explosion occurred at the ONEOK MBC Maintenance plant in Mont Belvieu, Texas, resulting in three workers sustaining minor injuries. Emergency crews, including the fire department and police, quickly responded to the incident and have since returned to regular duty.

“We are aware of a fire at our Mont Belvieu, Texas, facility,” said Alicia Buffer, senior manager, external communications with ONEOK.

The blast, which happened around 11 a.m. at the facility located on SH 146 near SH 99 in



Chambers County, sent three employees to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. All other personnel at the plant have been accounted for, according to city officials.

Firefighters managed to bring the fire under control, though aerial

footage from Air 11 (KHOU TV) revealed significant damage to the site.

“We appreciate the quick response of local emergency responders. The fire was quickly extinguished. All personnel are accounted for, and the facility is now

stabilized,” Buffer said.

The sound of the explosion was reportedly heard throughout Mont Belvieu, but authorities have confirmed there is no immediate threat to the public and all nearby roads remain open.

David Bloom, spokesman for Barbers Hill

ISD, reported no interruptions to the school day or shelter-in-place orders.

“We will conduct a thorough investigation into the cause and resume operations when it is safe to do so,” she added.

Buffer also said they would be notifying regulatory agencies, and air monitoring has been established as a safety precaution.

ONEOK, headquartered in Tulsa, operates several facilities in Texas and maintains a vast network of pipelines transporting natural gas, natural gas liquids, refined products, and crude oil to meet energy demands both domestically and internationally.

# Testimony Reveals Chilling Details in Sarah Hartsfield Insulin Murder Case

ANAHUAC - The second week of testimony in Sarah Hartsfield’s insulin murder trial began Monday in Chambers County, with prosecutors continuing to present evidence alleging that Hartsfield intentionally caused her husband Joseph Hartsfield’s death by insulin overdose in January 2023.

Jurors viewed body camera footage from inside the couple’s Beach City home, showing Hartsfield’s calm demeanor as deputies investigated Joseph’s medical emergency. Investigators admitted key evidence — insulin pens and a glass of juice Sarah claimed she gave Joseph — was never collected. Prosecutors allege Sarah delayed calling 911 for hours while Joseph’s blood sugar plummeted.

New testimony detailed Sarah’s alleged “pattern” of suspicious behavior, in-

cluding multiple house fires tied to past partners, an alleged murder-for-hire plot, and the 2018 shooting of ex-boyfriend David Bragg in Minnesota — once ruled self-defense but now reopened. Witness Doris Swart, Bragg’s mother, recounted Sarah’s chilling words at the funeral: “Why did you make me do that?”

Prosecutors also introduced text messages Sarah sent to a realtor days before Joseph’s death, discussing selling their home and planning her “exit strategy.” They argue these messages, along with mounting debt complaints, point to motive.

Several of Hartsfield’s children testified, many visibly avoiding eye contact with their mother.

Ashley Donohue, 24, said Sarah’s marriage to Joseph was tense and fast-moving, with constant fi-



Sarah Hartsfield the now 48 year-old has been married five times. (photo from SarahHartsfield/Facebook)

nancial conflict. She described Sarah’s anger during Christmas 2022 and recalled Sarah’s texts and voicemails from the day Joseph was hospitalized, where Sarah shared updates and told Ashley to

avoid speaking with investigators. Ashley also read a letter from jail in which Sarah instructed her to create a GoFundMe for legal expenses.

Hannah Donohue, 21, testified about Sarah’s al-

leged role in the murder-for-hire plot targeting her stepmother, saying Sarah told then-husband David George he couldn’t come home unless he “took care of it.” She also described witnessing Bragg’s shooting, recalling Sarah handing her two guns and later instructing her to lie to police. Hannah said she still fears her mother.

Emma Donohue, 19, corroborated the alleged plot, recalling Sarah’s threats toward George and fear within the household.

Ryan Donohue, Sarah’s son, testified he barely knew Joseph and only understood their relationship through Sarah, who described frequent arguments and financial issues.

Ex-husband Christopher Donohue described their 17-year marriage as controlling and testified about Sarah’s alleged arson confession, ties to

Bragg’s shooting, and knowledge of the murder plot against his current wife.

Additional witnesses painted Sarah as manipulative and deceitful. Friend Ivan Boots testified Sarah repeatedly misled him about Joseph’s condition, pushed a “stroke” narrative, and suspiciously asked if insulin levels could be detected. Family members including Nancy Casteneda and Sandra Short testified Joseph planned to leave Sarah and that she gave inconsistent stories about his final night.

The court also heard from jail officials, who confirmed Sarah made thousands of recorded calls and sent texts to media outlets.

The trial continues this week, with prosecutors expected to rest midweek after calling the lead detective.

# Communications Department Wins National Award

MONT BELVIEU - The Mont Belvieu City Council recognized the city’s Communications and Marketing Department during their meeting on Monday, September 22 for winning a national award. During the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) annual conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 3-5, 2025, the department won a Savvy Award (1st Place) for the Love MBTX campaign in the “Communications and/or Marketing Plans – population up to 50,000” category. This campaign, which had already been recognized earlier this summer by the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO), focuses on

celebrating what makes Mont Belvieu great through a combination of in-person activations, community engagement, resident and employee profiles, and social media content. One 3CMA judge stated, “This is a well-thought-out blueprint of how to combat negativity and instill community pride in a fast-growing community! These communicators have shown that creativity does not need a giant budget to have a major impact.” Not only did Love MBTX win a Savvy, but the campaign was also nominated by the judges as a finalist for a 3CMA Diamond Award – the association’s highest recognition for best of show.

“Winning a Savvy Award for the Love MBTX



campaign is such an honor,” stated Communications and Marketing

Director Brian Ligon. “Our team worked hard to create something that went well beyond a simple hashtag on social media; we

wanted it to mean something to our residents. We are glad that it resonated not only here at home but was recognized by our colleagues across the nation.”

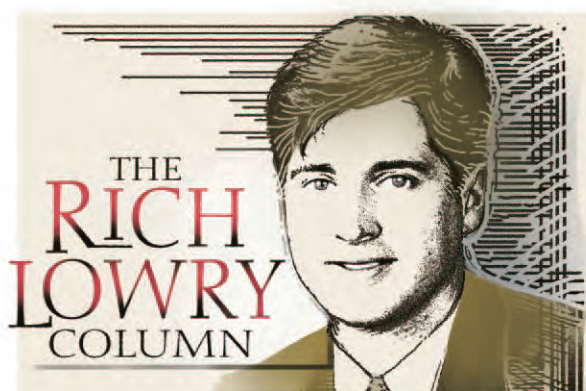
In addition to the Savvy win, the team also earned an Award of Honor (3rd Place) in the “Social Media – Overall Strategy” category for the department’s implementation of a vertical video strategy, which has helped the city reach new and different audiences through Reels, Stories, and Shorts on social media.

## 2025 Savvy Awards

This year’s 3CMA Savvy Awards were very competitive. The contest garnered 1,166 entries from 365 unique jurisdictions spanning 35 states and Canada yielding 141 unique finalists across all categories.

To learn more about 3CMA go to [www.3cma.org](http://www.3cma.org) and the Savvy Awards program at [www.3cma.org/savvyawards](http://www.3cma.org/savvyawards). More information about the Love MBTX campaign can be found at [www.montbelvieu.net/lovembtx](http://www.montbelvieu.net/lovembtx).

OPINION PAGE



Mississippi is The Education Future

A miracle defies the laws of nature. This is why "the Mississippi Miracle," the sobriquet for the extraordinary gains that students in the Gulf state have made in reading in recent years, is a misnomer.

There's nothing miraculous about a state that adopts phonics and that sets high standards for its kids to get better results in reading instruction. This, to the contrary, is a predictable outcome, and a replicable one, as other Southern states that have taken up similar policies have shown.

Mississippi went from 49th in fourth-grade reading results on the National Assessment about a decade ago to 9th in 2024. Its low-income children are ranked first in the nation. It's Black kids are number three in the nation and it's Hispanic kids number one. Overall, when adjusted for socioeconomic and demographics, Mississippi has the best fourth-grade results in the nation.

The derisive cliché was always, "Thank God for Mississippi," since it could be trusted to save other states from coming in 50th in various metrics. Now, the phrase can be used with sincerity and admiration, since the state recognized and did something about its literacy crisis.

In 2011, about four out of five fourth graders in Mississippi weren't proficient in reading. In 2013, the state passed a reform to require teachers to understand the science of reading (basically, phonics), to deploy literacy coaches to schools, to identify students struggling to read early, and to hold back students in third grade who weren't ready to advance.

Alabama, Tennessee and Louisiana have now done much the same, and have also made gains. The original source of all this was a 2002 reading law in Florida that boosted student achievement in the Sunshine State.

In a piece headlined "Illiteracy is a policy choice" at the website The Argument, Kelsey Piper makes the case that it would be irresponsible and wrong to ignore the lesson of Mississippi and the Southern states.

She notes that Mississippi outperforms her native California, even though the Golden State is richer and spends substantially more on education per pupil. More than half of Black fourth graders in Mississippi are at or above basic level, while only 28% of Black fourth graders in California are.

It may be galling for Blue States that have prided themselves on their commitment to education and looked down on the South to have to acknowledge that Mississippi, of all places, has figured out a model for the nation, but it is imperative all the same.

"We have been spending lots of money on schools," Piper writes of Blue States, "but we have not been willing to muster the political will and effort necessary to hold those schools accountable for results and adopt teaching practices that actually work."

The so-called reading wars between the whole-language approach and phonics was won, on the merits, by phonics long ago. Yet, ineffectual methods hung around even though they'd been discredited. This is why it's so important to get teachers to embrace research-based reading instruction.

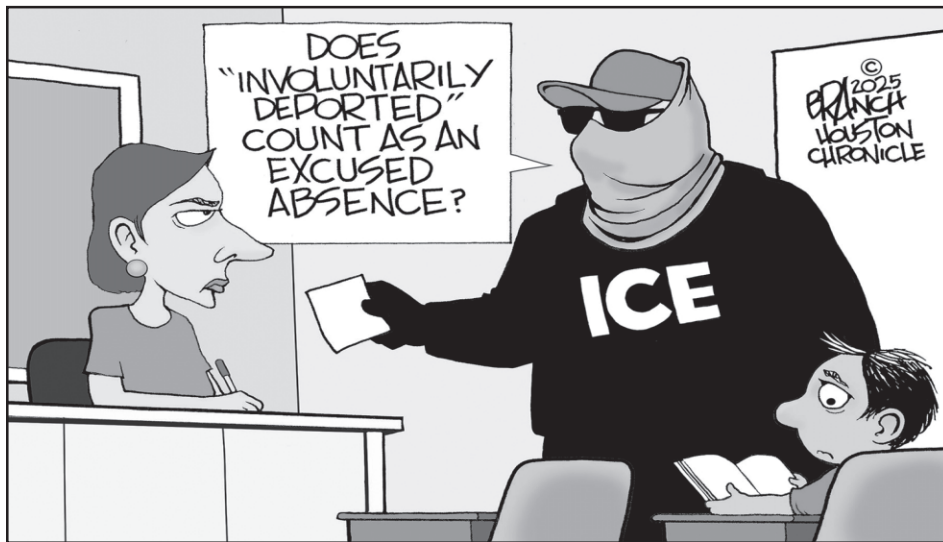
There must also be high expectations, rigorously enforced. This is what the Mississippi third-grade retention policy is about. If a teacher and a parent know that a child is going to be held back, they will do all they can to get that child to basic proficiency. Research in Florida shows that getting held back not only helps the academic performance of the students who are retained, but their younger siblings as well.

With reading scores nationally sliding the wrong way, especially for the bottom 10% of students, Mississippi and the other Southern states offer a beacon of hope. Their example shows that, no, it's not impossible to teach children, and no, it's not very costly. It's a good sign that even California just passed a phonics bill.

It's fully within our power, so long as we insist on the basics, to give kids a skill absolutely essential to their development and their futures. No miracles necessary.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



In-state Tuition Guidance Creating Confusion

Advocates for undocumented college students claim some students have been told incorrectly they are no longer eligible for low in-state tuition rates, the Texas Tribune reports. They are asking for clear guidance on the issue.

In June a federal court ruled unconstitutional the Texas Dream Act, a state law which granted in-state college tuition rates for undocumented college students. The June court ruling came after the state declined to defend a suit filed by the U.S. Justice Department.

Advocates say some schools are confusing students previously eligible under the Dream Act with students attending under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA, who are considered to be living legally in the United States.

"The rules don't help at all. They create even more confusion...You're just going to have, again, more people getting wrongly denied," said Julieta Garibay, co-founder of United We Dream, a national immigrant advocacy group. The advocates say several colleges, including Blinn College and Laredo College, initially said on their websites that DACA recipients can no longer obtain in-state tuition.

An assistant commissioner for the coordinating board, Charles W. Contéro-Puls, said repealing the Texas Dream Act would not negatively affect the state's economy, a claim disputed by the American Immigration Council. Its analysis concluded rescinding in-state tuition for undocumented students could cost the state more than \$460 million annually in lost wages and spending power.

AI 'GOLD RUSH' SWEEPS TEXAS

As Gov. Greg Abbott helped unveil the new Stargate facility in Abilene, he praised the state's increasing role in the rapid growth of the artificial intelligence center. The Dallas Morning News reported the governor hinted that upcoming data center buildouts will be "far larger" than the nearly \$500 billion center opening in Abilene.

Financial and technology companies are staking claims in the state, Abbott said. Stargate's facility in Abilene is part of a joint venture of OpenAI, Oracle, Softbank and the federal government. It plans to in-



crease capacity at the flagship sites and add two other facilities in Shackelford and Milam counties.

Abbott hinted the sites unveiled are just the beginning for the economic growth spurred by AI.

"When you see the demand for them for artificial intelligence, you will see the power that it will inject into the future of the Texas economy," he said.

While there are concerns about high energy demand by the data centers, Abbott said the state's capacity is more than sufficient.

"We have wind, solar, nuclear, which we're adding even more to, and, of course, natural gas. And so we have low-cost power, abundant power, that is attracting the AI data centers," he said.

ERCOT WARNS AGAINST POWER GRID 'COMPLACENCY'

The agency that manages the state's electric grid said a relatively mild summer put less strain on the state's power grid, but officials are still warning against complacency. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas board met recently and credited the milder weather and rapid growth of solar energy and battery storage for an "uneventful" summer for the Texas grid.

In previous hotter summers, ERCOT operators have warned the grid was nearing capacity during prolonged heat waves.

"We've had so many well-above-average summers in a row that this seems like a cool summer relative to those," said Dan Woodfin, ERCOT's vice president of system operations. "But this is more what a normal summer looks like."

Peak power demand has not reached record levels since the summer of 2023, but the state's overall energy consumption has

seen "extremely rapid" growth, ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas said. The state's energy consumption is rising five times faster than national average growth was from 2000 to 2020, he said.

Vegas said the lack of extreme weather events has overshadowed the state's rapid growth in power demand, in large part due to the data centers being built across the state.

"It's important to not ever be lulled into complacency," Vegas said. "We are just at the inflection point of an acceleration of demand growth ahead of us."

GOP OFFICIALS DROP ORIGINAL REDISTRICTING RATIONALE

In a new court filing, Texas officials acknowledge that the Justice Department's rationale for pushing the state to redraw congressional maps was flawed, but the state is still well within its rights to do so, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

"Its ham-fisted legal conclusions notwithstanding, the DOJ Letter apparently sought to provide political cover for Texas to engage in partisan redistricting," the Texas Attorney General's Office said in a 41-page document.

The state is fighting lawsuits filed since the redistricting plan passed during the summer, likely giving the GOP five more congressional seats in Texas. The move was pushed by President Donald Trump for the party to maintain or increase its razor-thin majority in the House.

The Justice Department originally argued the state's 2021 redistricting plan was replaced because it districts were unconstitutionally based on race. The state is now rejecting that argument, saying the latest redistricting was done for partisan political purposes, which courts have ruled is allowable.

Democrats and their allies have accused Republicans of seeking to silence the voices of Black and Hispanic Texans by diluting their votes.

ABBOTT SIGNS NEW 'BATHROOM BILL'

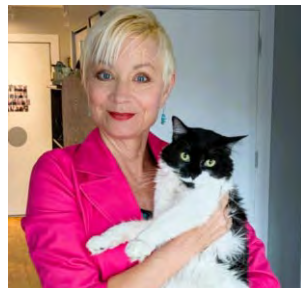
The governor has signed a bill passed in the last special session that requires people in public buildings to use restrooms and locker rooms matching the gender listed on their birth certificates, kut.org reported. Abbott said the so-called "bathroom bill" will keep men out of women's restrooms and "is just common sense." It takes effect Dec. 4 and applies to public schools, universities, prisons and jails, along with other public buildings. The only exceptions are for people accompanying children under 10, along with custodians, law enforcement, and medical workers.

If someone violates the law, the facility would be subject to a fine of \$25,000 for the first offense and \$125,000 for subsequent offenses. Critics say there is no proof transgender women in Texas are entering bathrooms and causing harm.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Getting it Right



I am going to New York. I have not been to New York since before the pandemic. I bought a half-price ticket to see a show on Broadway before catching my flight home. I was very glad I went, since it was such a long time before I could see another play.

But now I am going back because the publisher of my book is having an open house for the authors with books coming out in 2025 and 2026, and I think that sounds like a lot of fun. They are serving snacks and beverages, and all the editors will be there. I've Googled where their office is, and it appears to be right in the center of things, and—if I'm going to New York—that's where I want to be.

I think it will be great fun to meet these other authors and meet all the editors who make the books possible. The only thing that truly worries me is what to wear.

Maybe you think I'm kidding. I'm not.

Knowing what I will wear is a great comfort to me. Once I know what I will wear, I can picture myself in a place, and this is hugely reassuring. If I can't imagine myself, I start to get anxious. You might think I'd be more worried about what I will say to all these important writers and editors, but somehow, this does not feel like nearly as big a problem.

"What is your book about?" would be appropriate to say to anyone who's written a book. "When did it come out?" sounds like a great follow-up. I could ask how many books they had written and if they're working on anything else and, if so, what that was about. Before you know it, the party is breaking up, and I've only talked to one person.

If I'm talking to an editor, I'd ask, "How many books do you work on at a time?" I'd like to know what they did before they started this job, and what their favorite part of the job is. Again, I can easily see how the evening would pass before I know it—what with eating and drinking all the promised snacks and beverages.

No, the talking part does not feel like a problem. It's getting dressed that is hard.

I think this is because going to New York, for many of us who grew up in the Midwest, seems like a very big deal. New York does not seem quite real. It seems like the sort of place where a person would need to get things right.

This is where my anxiety kicks in. What does "getting things right" look like?

I dig through my closet. I dig through my drawers. I try things on. I discard things. I start to feel emotional, wondering if I am a person who belongs in New York at all—a person who is incapable of dressing herself.

Until I remember that no one—absolutely no one—is expecting me to get anything right. Anyone who has read my writing will know that sophistication is not my brand. Instead, I try to imagine how I would dress if I simply wore the kind of thing I write.

Instead of wearing black, I pull out a pink blazer. It is a little loud and very cheerful and not particularly sophisticated. If it says anything at all, it says that I like bright colors and warm feelings, and I am not afraid to show it.

I'm wearing the jacket. And I feel better now.

Till next time, Carrie

Fun Fact: The first US state to require license plates was New York, in 1901. Each car owner ordered their own plate to be made, out of porcelain baked onto iron, or out of ceramic materials. Sources: www.inspectaride.com, leatherlicenseplates.com

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

# FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 7: Texas, OU meet in key SEC game: Lions, Chiefs face off on Sunday Night Football

The second week of October is approaching, which means the State Fair of Texas will be in full swing and the annual Red River Rivalry will take place in the Cotton Bowl as No. 5-ranked Oklahoma takes on No. 9-ranked Texas in their annual blood-bath.

A year ago, Steve Sarkisian's team dominated their SEC rival, 34-3, but OU head coach Brent Venables has a defense (allowing just 9 points per game) that could give a Texas offense troubles come Saturday at 2:30 p.m. on ABC. OU will be without star QB John Mateer (1,215 passing yards, 6 TDs/190 rushing yards, 5 TDs), who is out with a broken thumb. That means former starter Michael Hawkins gets the start, against a very good Texas defense.

This is a good weekend on the college schedule, but not so much on the NFL schedule. The Texans, who picked up their first win of the year two weeks ago against the lowly Tennessee Titans, have a bye week.

The SEC has another big game as No. 10-ranked Alabama visits a very dangerous opponent in No. 19-ranked Missouri, while No. 1-ranked Ohio State takes on No. 22-ranked Illinois on the road. In another big Big 10 game, No. 9-ranked Indiana visits No. 2-ranked Oregon.

The NFL heads into Week 6 as the Dallas Cowboys visit Carolina. Two weeks ago, the Dallas offense woke up and put up 40 points in Micah Parsons and the Green Bay defense, but its defense also gave up a 40 burger as Jerry Jones' team had to settle for a tie in Parsons return to Dallas. Dallas moved to 1-2-1 after that game, and needs to beat bad teams if it hopes to contend for an NFC Wild Card spot.

Also in Week 6, the Los Angeles Rams visit a struggling Baltimore Ravens team, which fell to 1-3 after its 37-20 loss at Kansas City two weeks ago. It didn't help that star QB Lamar Jackson left the game in the second half with a mild hamstring injury, but Ravens fans had better hope it's mild and nothing more, or their team could be done for the season.

Also in Week 6, San Francisco visits Tampa Bay in a key game for both teams. There's a good one for the Sunday Night Football crew as Detroit visits Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs on NBC.

In District 14-6A play, the Nimitz Cougars look to make a statement against the perennial power in the league when they face Spring Westfield on Thursday night at Thorne Stadium. Also on Thursday, Davis visits Planet Ford Stadium in Spring to take on Dekaney. On Friday, Aldine and MacArthur face off in Thorne Stadium, while Eisenhower visits Spring High at Planet Ford Stadium.

Before we take a look at this week's games, lets review last week's record. A so-so 7-5 week brought the record to 34-24 (57%).

Now, onto this week-end's games.

### NCAA

**Alabama at Missouri** - No. 10-Alabama hits the road for the second time in three weeks to face No. 19 Missouri. Two weeks ago, Kalen DeBoer's team picked up a huge road win with a 24-21 upset of Georgia in Athens. That game probably took a lot of heat off of DeBoer, who has come under criticism from Crimson Tide fans since their season-opening loss at Florida State. The 'Bama offense should be



able to move the ball against a suspect Tigers defense. Look for QB Ty Simpson (1,138 yards, 11 TDs) to attack the Mizzu secondary with strikes to big-play wideouts Germie Bernard (20 receptions, 310 yards, 4 TDs) and Ryan Williams (15 receptions, 238 yards, 2 TDs), which should open up the running lanes for Crimson Tide backs. The Alabama defense will get a stern test from an explosive Tigers offense, led by QB Beau Pribula (1,203 passing yards, 9 TDs/121 rushing yards, 3 TDs), running backs Ahmad Hardy (730 yards, 9 TDs) and Jamal Roberts (350 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers Kevin Coleman Jr. (39 receptions, 386 yards, 1 TD) and Marquis Johnson (18 receptions, 275 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the 'Bama defense to make a play or two late to pull off another big road win. My pick, Alabama 30, Missouri 26

**Ohio State at Illinois** - Like Alabama, No. 1-ranked Ohio State hits the road for the second time in three weeks to take on No. 22-ranked Illinois. Two weeks ago, the Buckeyes earned a hard-fought 24-6 win at Washington, while the Illini upset USC, 34-32 at home. OSU will bring one of the top defenses in the country into Campaign on Saturday. In their first four games, the Buckeyes have allowed just 5.5 points per game, while amassing 13 sacks (five by defensive end Caden Curry). The OSU offense is starting to come around behind QB Julian Sayin (987 yards, 10 TDs), running back Bo Jackson (no, not that Bo Jackson), (297 yards, 1 TD) and two big-play wideouts in Jeremiah Smith (28 receptions, 396 yards, 4 TDs) and Carnell Tate (15 receptions, 252 yards, 3 TDs). Illinois has a solid offense led by QB Luke Altmyer (1,183 yards, 11 TDs), running back Kaden Feagin (300 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Hank Beaty (27 receptions, 383 yards, 1 TD). I think Illinois hangs around for awhile, but look for the Buckeyes defense to stifle that unit late to help lead Ohio State to another big road win. My pick, Ohio State 27, Illinois 13

**Indiana at Oregon** - Two weeks ago, I had the good pleasure to see the No. 8 ranked Hoosiers up close and personal when I took in the Indiana-Iowa game in Iowa City. The Hoosiers pulled out a gritty 20-15 win behind QB Fernando Mendoza (1,208 yards, 16 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Elijah Sarratt (30 receptions, 388 yards, 6 TDs). The Hoosiers also have two productive runners in Roman Hemby (351 yards) and Kaelon Black (344 yards, 2 TDs). The Indiana offense should be able to move the ball against the Ducks defense, but Oregon's offense should be able to do the same. The Ducks, who two weeks ago picked up a huge road win with a 30-24 overtime win at Penn State, have a pretty good offense of their own. The Ducks average 47 points per game, led by QB Dante Moore (1,210 passing yards, 14 TDs/122 rushing yards), running backs Dierre Hill (270 yards, 2 TDs) and Jayden Limer (27 yards, 3 TDs) and wideouts Dakorian Moore (19 receptions, 286 yards, 2 TDs) and Malik Benson (16 receptions, 212 yards, 2 TDs). The Hoosiers are a tough team and will be in

this one, but look for the Oregon offense to be too much for Indiana's defense to handle in the second half. My pick, Oregon 33, Indiana 23

**Oklahoma vs. Texas** - No. 4 OU and No. 9 Texas meet in the Cotton Bowl with the State Fair of Texas as a backdrop at 2:30 p.m. on ABC. This game pits two of the top defenses in the SEC and country as the Sooner "D" has allowed just 9 points per game, while the Longhorn "D" has allowed just 6 points per game. OU enters this game without its best offensive player as QB John Mateer (1,2115 passing yards, 6 TDs/180 rushing yards, 5 TDs) will miss this game with a hand injury. That means backup Michael Hawkins (783 passing yards, 3 TDs/204 rushing yards, 1 TD in 2024) will run the offense. That's a big dropoff for the OU offense. Hawkins will need help from running back Tory Blaylock (190 yards, 5 TDs), tight end Jaren Karnak (18 receptions, 307 yards) and wide receivers Isiah Sategna III (22 receptions, 284 yards, 1 TD) and Deron Burks (23 receptions, 265 yards, 2 TDs). UT QB Arch Manning (888 passing yards, 9 TDs/123 rushing yards, 5 TDs) must protect the ball against an aggressive OU defense. He should have his top two runners back as CJ Baxter and Quintrevion Wisner return after missing three weeks with minor injuries. If they are unable to go, Jerrick Gibson (155 yards, 1 TD) will be the top back in the 'Horns offense. When Manning throws, he will look to make plays to wideouts Parker Livingstone (11 receptions, 222 yards, 3 TDs) and Ryan Wingo (13 receptions, 190 yards, 3 TDs). I think this is a low-scoring game. Look for the UT defense to outplay OU's as Texas picks up a big conference win. My pick, Texas 20, Oklahoma 12

### NFL

**Dallas at Carolina** - If the Cowboys are going to contend for a Wild Card spot, they need to beat bad teams, and the Panthers are a bad team. Two weeks ago, the Dallas offense came alive in its 40-40 tie against Green Bay. QB Dak Prescott (1,119 yards, 6 TDs) had a big night, making plays all over the field to first-year wideout George Pickens (21 receptions, 300 yards, 4 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (34 receptions, 223 yards, 1 TD). Dallas appears to have found a productive runner in Javonte Williams (312 yards, 4 TDs). Carolina QB Bryce Young (753 yards, 5 TDs/3 interceptions) should have success against a banged up Dallas secondary. He will look to make plays to rookie wideout Tetarian McMillen (18 receptions, 225 yards, 1 TD). My pick, Dallas 34, Carolina 16

**Los Angeles Rams at Baltimore** - The Rams head east to face a desperate Ravens team on Sunday. Two weeks ago, LA improved to 3-1 with a home win over the Colts, while the Ravens lost at Kansas City, 37-20. Star QB Lamar Jackson (869 passing yards, 10 TDs/166 rushing yards, 1 TD) sustained a hamstring injury, but head coach John Harbaugh said the injury is not serious. Ravens fans had better hope so, because if Jackson is lost for any length of time, Balti-

## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Crosby Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on October 21, 2025 at 1:00 PM at 103 West Wahl Street, Crosby, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners. Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](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.

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

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent: Steven Schreiber

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.310000/\$100	\$0.280000/\$100
	<small>Adopted</small>	<small>Proposed</small>
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.030000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-9.68%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$229,131	\$244,460
General homestead exemptions available	\$0	\$0
<small>(excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)</small>		
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$229,131	\$244,460
Tax on average residence homestead	\$710.30	\$684.49
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if		
proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$-25.81
and percentage of increase (+/-)		-3.63%

**NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE**

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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


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

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

**LAST WEEK'S SCORES**  
Thursday, Oct. 2  
Baytown Sterling 23, Barbers Hill 14

**Friday, Oct. 3**  
Baytown Lee, **BYE WEEK**  
Crosby 39, Friendswood 30  
C. E. King 70, Goose Creek Memorial 20  
Lumberton 45, Huffman Hargrave 22

**NEXT WEEK'S GAMES**  
Friday, Oct. 10  
Barbers Hill vs. Port Arthur (Homecoming) at 7 p.m., at Eagle Stadium  
Baytown Lee at Rosenberg Terry at 7 p.m., at Ranger Field in Rosenberg  
Baytown Sterling at West Brook at 7 p.m., at Doggett Family Stadium in Beaumont  
Crosby vs. Kingwood Park (Teacher Appreciation Night) at 7 p.m., at Cougar Stadium  
Dayton at Montgomery Lake Creek at 7 p.m., at Montgomery ISD Stadium  
Goose Creek Memorial vs. North Shore at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium, in Baytown



more's season could be over. The Ravens need running back Derrick Henry (284 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout Zay Flowers (23 receptions, 305 yards, 1 TD) to get going. The Rams are solid on offense led by QB Matthew Stafford (1,114 yards, 8 TDs), running back Kyren Williams (303 yards, 1 TD) and wide receivers Puka Nuccia (42 receptions, 503 yards, 1 TD) and Davante Adams (17 receptions, 269 yards, 3 TDs). Baltimore needs this more than the Rams do, but its defense must start playing much, much better. My pick, Baltimore 30, Los Angeles Rams 27

**San Francisco at Tampa Bay** - The 49ers head to the Sunshine State to take on the Bucs in a key game for both teams. Two weeks ago, SF lost to Jacksonville at home, while TB did the same tot the Eagles. SF QB Brock Purdy (586 yards, 4 TDs in 2 games) suffered a toe injury two weeks ago and

his status could be up in the air for this game. If Purdy is out, backup Mac Jones will rely on running back Christian McCaffrey (225 rushing yards/31 receptions, 305 yards, 2 TDs) to make plays on the ground and in the passing game. TB will look for QB Baker Mayfield (904 yards, 8 TDs), running back Bucky Irving (237 yards, 1 TD) and sensational rookie wideout Emeka Egbuka (18 receptions, 282 yards, 4 TDs) to make plays against a banged-up 49ers defense. My pick, Tampa Bay 30, San Francisco 26

**Detroit at Kansas City** - A great one for the Sunday Night Football crew as the Lions take on the Chiefs in KC. This could be an offensive shootout as the Lions can score from anywhere on the field behind QB Jared Goff (929 yards, 9 TDs), running backs Jahmyr Gibbs (271 rushing yards, 4 TDs/20 receptions, 214 yards, 1 TD), and David Montgomery (245 yards, 3

TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (27 receptions, 307 yards, 6 TDs). After losing their first two games, the Chiefs look to be rounding into form with two straight wins. QB Patrick Mahomes (939 passing yards, 7 TDs/130 rushing yards, 2 TDs) is starting to click with wideouts Marquise Brown (22 receptions, 209 yards, 1 TD) and Tyquan Thornton (10 receptions, 182 yards, 3 TDs) and he still has Mr. Reliable, tight end Travis Kelce (15 receptions, 182 yards, 1 TD) to go to when he needs a big play. The Chiefs also got back a big weapon two weeks ago when speedy wide receiver Xavier Worthy returned after missing two games with five receptions for 83 yards in KC's 37-20 win over Baltimore. This should be a fun game to watch. Look for Mahomes to outduel Goff as the Chiefs continue their roll. My pick, Kansas City 36, Detroit 33.

### Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Crosby Municipal Utility District Defined Area 1 (DA1) will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on October 21, 2025 at 1:00 PM at 103 West Wahl Street, Crosby, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners. Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent: Steven Schreiber

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.860000/\$100	\$0.860000/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$299,251	\$301,986
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$299,251	\$301,986
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,573.55	\$2,597.08
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$23.53
and percentage of increase (+/-)		0.91%

#### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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

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

### Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Crosby Municipal Utility District Defined Area 2 (DA2) will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on October 21, 2025 at 103 West Wahl Street, Crosby, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners. Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent: Steven Schreiber

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

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

#### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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

\* There were no residence homesteads on January 1, 2024 or January 1, 2025, therefore the tax that would have been imposed on a residential homestead is \$0.00

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

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### Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 213-A will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 at 12:00 pm at the Home2 Suites Hotel, 7512 Garth Rd, Baytown, TX 77521. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](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.

FOR the proposal: Esmeralda Montalvo, Jacob Saour, W. Fritz Maxwell, Alexander Soler, James Coursey  
 AGAINST the proposal: None  
 PRESENT and not voting: None  
 ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$1.41000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$1.38000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.03000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-2.13%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$268,546.00	\$263,119.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$268,546.00	\$263,119.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,786.50	\$3,631.04
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$-155.46 -4.11%

#### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

The Property Tax Assistance Division at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts provides property tax information and resources for taxpayers, local taxing entities, appraisal districts and appraisal review boards. For more information, visit our website: [comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax](https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax)

### Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on October 23, 2025 at 6:00 PM at 129000 Crosby Lynchburg Road, Crosby Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](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.

For the proposal: Alice Dangerfield, Simone Wheatfall, Cassandra Clark, Daryl G. Johnson, Martin Lemond

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.926000/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.926000/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$178,263	\$189,693
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$178,263	\$189,693
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,650.71	\$1,756.56
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$105.85 6.41%

#### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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

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

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### Weekly SUDOKU

			5		4			9
		6			4	1	8	
1		8		9				3 5
7					3	5	4	
3	6		4				8	
4		5	8		7	9		3
		2			4	5		1 8
						3	2	
6					7	8	3	9

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. Box is smaller. 2. Arm is longer. 3. The is longer. 4. Thumb is moved. 5. Mouth has more hair. 6. Cap is a different shape.

### October 6, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
15					16			17			
		18			19			20			
21	22			23			24				
25			26		27		28				
29				30			31		32	33	34
				35			36		37		
38	39	40			41		42		43		
44					45				46		
47				48				49		50	51
52					53				54		
55					56				57		

**ACROSS**

- 1 Surrenders
- 6 Tennis match division
- 9 Cover
- 12 Fold
- 13 Sch. founded by Jefferson
- 14 Blackbird
- 15 Shadow
- 16 Utter disaster
- 18 Author Lurie
- 20 Bump into
- 21 Soup cooker
- 23 Cowboys quarterback Prescott
- 24 Has an intense craving
- 25 Actor Guinness
- 27 Toothpaste holders
- 29 Strange thing
- 31 Deceived
- 35 Welsh pooch
- 37 Bargain
- 38 "Downton —"
- 41 ER workers
- 43 Quilters' get-together
- 44 Tragic king
- 45 Rum cocktail
- 47 TV anchor Norville
- 49 "Glee" guitarist
- 52 Packed away
- 53 Historic period
- 8 Bar bill
- 9 Shoe fasteners
- 10 Cove
- 11 Losing ventures?
- 17 Ticked
- 19 Nymph pursuer
- 21 Kung — chicken
- 22 Vintage
- 24 Floral garland
- 26 Roman orator
- 28 Russian pancakes
- 30 Playpen item
- 32 Deducted
- 33 — kwon do cheer
- 34 Flamenco
- 36 Cracker type
- 38 Actors Robert and Alan
- 39 Borscht base
- 40 Innocents
- 42 Play for time
- 45 Stallion's mate
- 46 Operatic solo
- 48 Rule, for short
- 50 Chemical suffix
- 51 Curved letter

**DOWN**

- 1 PC's brain
- 2 Shade tree
- 3 Battled verbally
- 4 — Grey tea
- 5 Composed
- 6 Number puzzle
- 7 Divisible by two

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: In the United States, what is the title of the first Harry Potter movie?
- GEOGRAPHY: The Prime Meridian Line runs through which major city?
- HISTORY: When did federal child labor law start in the United States?
- ACRONYMS: What does the acronym VPN stand for?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president appeared on the 1960s comedy show "Laugh-In"?
- TELEVISION: Which teen show starred Mayim Bialik before she got the role as Amy Fowler on "The Big Bang Theory"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where did the Minoan civilization flourish?
- SCIENCE: What pH balance is considered neutral?
- LITERATURE: In which of Shakespeare's plays does the character Polonius appear?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: In which African country can the Bonobos species of ape be found in the wild?

Solution time: 26 mins.

### King Crossword

Answers

1. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone; 2. Greenwisch; 3. 1938; 4. Virtual Private Network; 5. Richard Nixon; 6. Blossom; 7. The Island of Crete; 8. 7; 9. Hamlet; 10. Democratic Republic of the Congo

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