

Hegseth's Fitness Push Sparks Criticism, Page 4

Mont Belvieu National Night Out, Page 3

Dia De los Muertos Purse Bingo Fundraiser

HIGHLANDS

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Here's one of the beautiful name brand purses that are presented to winners of the upcoming purse bingo, See Story Below & on Page 6.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

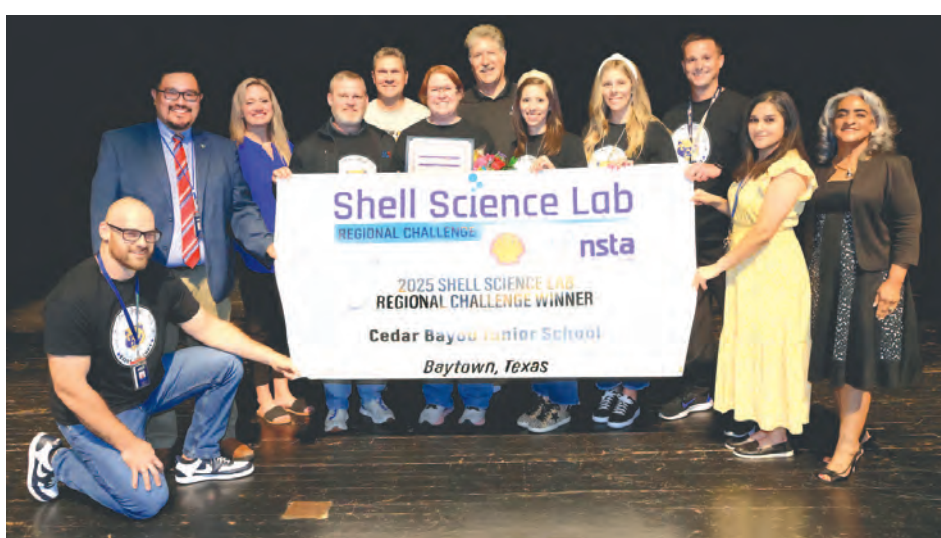
## Baytown Science Teacher Named Regional Winner in The Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge

26 Science Teachers Honored for Finding Innovative Ways to Deliver Quality Lab Experiences to Students

BAYTOWN, TX - Margaret Cayton, science teacher at Cedar Bayou Junior School in Baytown, Texas has been named a regional winner in the Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge. Sponsored by Shell USA, Inc. and administered by the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA), the competition encouraged K-12 science teachers who have found innovative ways to deliver quality lab experiences with limited school and laboratory resources to share their approaches for a chance to

win a school science lab makeover support package. Mrs. Cayton is one of 26 regional winners named, of which three grand-prize winners will be selected.

Margaret Cayton believes that science classrooms should foster an environment rich in active learning activities. This approach involves an intentional integration of hands-on labs, goal setting and analysis, critical thinking, and problem-solving exercises, all aimed at enhancing student engagement. Blending these



Pictured, from left, Damian Dunn, CBJ Science teacher, Dr. Roger Cardona, CBJ Principal, Stephanie DeLoss, GCCISD Science Instructional Specialist, Richard Rafuse, CBJ Science Teacher, Kevin Foxworth, GCCISD Area Executive Director, Margaret Cayton, CBJ Science Teacher and award recipient, Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD Superintendent, Alexa Augustine, Kourtney Lavernege, Cade Augustine, Lauren Castro, CBJ Science teachers, and Karen Labat, Education Specialist, Workforce and Diversity Outreach at Shell

elements creates a dynamic learning atmosphere that encourages students to explore, inquire, and develop a deeper understanding of scientific concepts. In Mrs. Cayton's science curriculum, she prioritizes hands-on learning through inquiry-based practices, vocabulary development, and the establishment of connections to real-life contexts as well as interdisciplinary subjects. This multifaceted approach is designed to engage students actively and support their understanding of scientific concepts. While the laboratory classroom has

Continued. See Baytown Teacher Wins Shell Science Award, Page 2

## Crosby Firefighters Shine at 2025 National Night Out



Crosby Volunteer Fire Department rolled out their big engines and this 114-foot ladder truck to show off to residents on National Night Out.



Firefighters Megan Urdialez and Stephanie Pierce join Kelly Mifflin of the Women's Auxiliary to serve popcorn, hotdogs, and other great foods for the National Night Out at Crosby VFD.

Continued. See Families Flock to Crosby Fire Station for National, Page 2

## Highlands National Night Out Brings Community Together



HEB grocery store was represented by Marissa Cervantes and HE Buddy at the National Night Out in Highlands.



Law enforcement agencies joined the fun meeting residents. From left, Deputy Kristan Gonzalez, Brittany White, Tonya Kostka and Blair Rhoden, Deputy John Wilson, Cassie Rogers, and Nick Ton. Deputy Dennis Moseley is in the back.



Bella Dion, from Sterling-White Funeral Home and Cemetery, had fun with the Chick-Fil-A cow at the Highlands Community Center National Night Out celebration.

Continued. See Fun, Food, and Friendship Highlight Highlands NNO, Page 2

## Crosby American Legion Hosts Día de los Muertos Purse Bingo

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The Crosby American Legion is inviting the community to a lively and meaningful event: the Dia de los Muertos Purse Bingo, set for November 1 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, located at 14890 FM 2100 in Crosby. This festive fundraiser aims to raise scholarship money for graduating seniors from

Crosby, Huffman, and C.E. King high schools, supporting their educational dreams and celebrating local traditions.

Attendees can look forward to an evening packed with excitement and community spirit. The event features 15 games of bingo, each with a designer purse as a prize, ensuring plenty of chances to win. In addition to bingo, guests will enjoy a Day of the Dead costume contest, a

wine pull, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, and a delicious dinner of tacos with rice and beans. For dessert, homemade strawberry churro cheesecake, regular churro cheesecake, and Mexican brownies will be served, all prepared by dedicated volunteers.

Melissa McBride, who is organizing the event, shared, "We're doing it ourselves this year—me and Miss D—so it's a real labor of love. We want ev-



everyone to have a great time and help us support our local students."

Tickets are available for \$75 per person, with sponsor tables offered at \$600. VIP tables come with special perks, including a group photo, drink tickets, bingo books, and recognition on a plaque. McBride noted that while the hall can accommodate many tables, the goal is to keep the event spacious and comfortable, with a maximum of 15 tables to allow guests to mingle and enjoy the festivities.

To reserve tickets or tables, interested parties can contact Melissa McBride at

Continued. See Crosby American Legion Hosts, Page 6

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# Baytown teacher wins Shell science award,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some glass flasks and materials, many of these items have been damaged over the years, limiting the quantity available. The current setup necessitates lab activities arranged on the counters, which restricts the available space and hinders student interaction with the materials. Facilitating collaborative group work is essential for enhancing student learning. Mrs. Cayton's goal is to foster an inclusive classroom atmosphere where students feel comfortable seeking assistance and participating actively. Upgrading to tables that accommodate group work would allow all students to engage simultaneously, eliminating the need for turn-taking. This enhancement would also enable Mrs. Cayton to prepare labs in advance, maximizing the time available for

conducting experiments during class. "These conscientious and creative science teachers have overcome many obstacles associated with having limited resources to provide their students with high-quality lab experiences," said Dr. Beverly DeVore-Wedding, NSTA President. "We commend these regional winners for their ingenuity and their dedication to their students." To enter the Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge, K-12 science teachers located in select school districts near Shell assets were asked to describe their school's current laboratory resources, explain why laboratory upgrade support is needed, and outline their approach to science education instruction using their school's current lab faci-

ties. A panel of science educators then reviewed and selected the top entries. The regional winners each received a school science lab makeover support package valued at \$15,000 (for the elementary level) and \$20,000 (for the middle and high school levels). Mrs. Cayton now advances to the national phase of the competition, where they will have a chance to win an additional \$5,000 in support to attend a future NSTA National Conference. All national winners will be honored during a special evening celebration during the conference. For more information about the Challenge, visit the competition website at <https://www.nsta.org/shell-science-lab-regional-challenge>.

# Goose Creek CISD Celebrates Accountability Achievements Across Campuses

Story by: Nancy Bonds  
GCCISD Director of Communications

Goose Creek CISD is proud to recognize the achievements of campuses across the district following the release of the 2024-2025 state accountability ratings. These celebrations highlight the incredible efforts of our teachers, staff, students, and families who continue to grow and achieve together. Among the district's strongest highlights this year are the campuses that earned an overall "A" rating. IMPACT Early College High School continues to set the bar high with an "A" rating and an academic distinction, showcasing the hard work of students who balance both high school and college coursework. Stuart Career Tech High School not only earned an "A," but also achieved four state distinctions, reflecting the school's innovative approach to career and technical education and its commitment to preparing students for success beyond graduation. Peter E. Hyland Empower Acade-

my also achieved an "A" rating. This tremendous accomplishment demonstrates the dedication of its staff to creating a supportive and effective learning environment for every student. These A-rated campuses serve as shining examples of the excellence that happens every day across Goose Creek CISD. In addition to these top-rated schools, several campuses earning a solid "B" rating also made significant strides this year. Bowie Elementary and Clark Elementary both posted an impressive 21-point growth, with Clark also earning three distinctions. Goose Creek Memorial High School and Lee High School each earned two distinctions alongside their "B" ratings, reflecting academic strength in key areas. Crockett Elementary proudly earned three distinctions, while Sterling High School earned one. These campuses reflect the progress and resilience taking place throughout the district and show that strong teaching and student dedication are driving continuous improvement.

Other campuses also demonstrated notable growth this year, including Ashbel Smith Elementary, Carver Elementary, De Zavala Elementary, Travis Elementary, and the Virtual Learning Academy. In addition, several campuses earned a distinction for success in targeted areas, including Banuelos Elementary, San Jacinto Elementary, and Highlands Junior School. Each campus recognized represents students and educators who are working hard to push forward and achieve even more in the future. "These results are a testament to the perseverance of our students and the dedication of our staff," said Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien. "Every campus celebrated today represents progress and the collective belief in *Our Giant Future*." Goose Creek CISD congratulates all campuses for their accomplishments and thanks the community for its ongoing support as the district continues to move forward and build on this success.

# Fun, food, and friendship highlight Highlands NNO,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Harris County Sheriff's Office communications officers Blake James, Elizabeth Nguyen, Dispatch supervisor Lauren Saucedo, and Deputy Austin Brese were out meeting residents from Highlands during National Night Out.



Hannah is helping her mom Andrea Gamble with Texas Road House giving out peanuts and samples of their peanut brittle.



Harris County Pct. 3 Deputy Dennis Mosley, Deputy Kristan Gonzales, and Deputy John Wilson stand by their Hummer that was bought in 2016 and was used during Hurricane Harvey.



Avlyn Conner of Highlands was having a great time trying to win prizes playing Plinko. They are frequent visitors to the community



HEB grocery store was represented by Marissa Cervantes and HE Buddy at the National Night Out in Highlands.

# Families flock to Crosby Fire Station for National Night out,

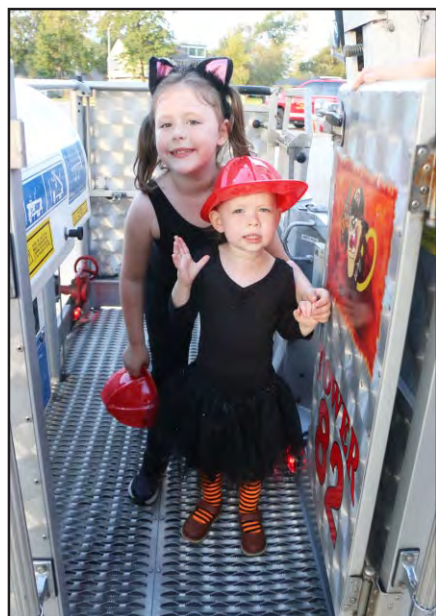
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Ansley Rockwell is with Roxanne and Randall Calderon, II at the National Night Out event in Crosby last Tuesday night.



Fireman Warren Thompson rode in the bucket of the 114-foot ladder truck showing the capabilities of the most expensive apparatus in the fleet of Crosby Volunteer Fire Department.



Spencer (back) and Calla Cream of Crosby were excited to enter the bucket of the big ladder truck during the National Night Out event at Crosby Volunteer Fire Department on Diamondhead.



Fireman Warren Thompson opened up the ladder truck to its full extension drawing oohs and ahs from residents, young and old.

# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

## Mont Belvieu Police, Fire Departments Join Residents for National Night Out 2025

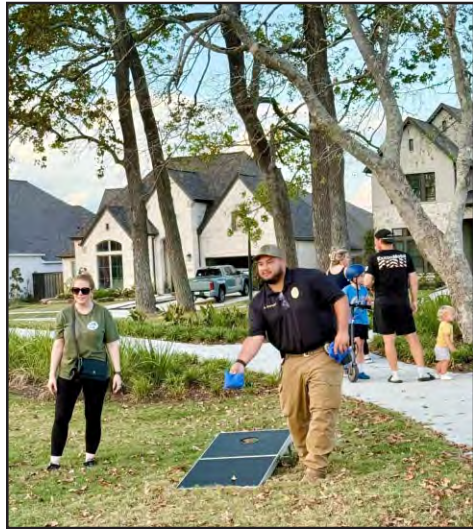
By Gerardo Hernandez,

MONT BELVIEU — National Night Out 2025 proved to be one for the books as residents across Mont Belvieu came together Tuesday evening to celebrate community spirit and partnership with local first responders.

Officers from the Mont Belvieu Police Department (MBPD), joined by members of the Mont Belvieu Fire Department, spent the evening visiting neighborhoods throughout the city, sharing food, laughter, and safety tips with families. The annual event, held nationwide, aims to strengthen the bond between law enforcement, emergency personnel, and the communities they serve.

“Thanks for the warm welcomes, great food, and great visits,” the MBPD shared in a social media post following the event. “This is a special place to live and work because of our great residents.”

Families gathered in driveways and Side walks, offering refreshments and



Detective Rodriguez and Neighbors in Riceland Park



Every kid runs to the fire engine! (Photo MB PD Facebook)



Future patrol officer in the making!



Corporal Goolsby showing off the MBPD drone system to some Cttonwood fans!



Officer Whitehead and Sgt. Stahl with new NNO participant.

taking photos with officers and firefighters. The departments encouraged residents to share their favorite moments and snapshots from the night online.

As Mont Belvieu continues to grow, National Night Out remains a reminder of the close-knit spirit that defines the community—where neighbors, police, and firefighters come together not just for safety, but for friendship and pride in their hometown. (Photos from Mont-Belvieu PD Facebook)

### ON THE HILL

## Barbers Hill ISD Superintendent Donates Historic Book to Church

### Baytown Habitat Uncorked

Formerly known as Opening Doors  
November 6 | 6pm - 9pm  
Yepez Vineyard  
12739 FM 2354  
Baytown, Texas 77523

This special evening is all about the heart of Habitat, the “whys” that inspire us, the families who move us, and the hope we build. You will have opportunities to take part in our raffle and silent auction to raise critical funds to help local families build safe and affordable homes.

\$50 per person Includes: Dinner Dessert | Drink Ticket

RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION

BUY TICKETS



Barbers Hill ISD Superintendent Dr. Greg Poole has made a significant donation to the local religious community, presenting a rare and historic Catholic book from his personal collection to Father Khanh Ho of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Mont Belvieu.

The volume is a first edition ecclesiastical work printed in Italy in 1682. The book is written entirely in Latin on vellum paper and retains its original binding. The text is considered one of the most significant books ever published on the history and doctrine of the Catholic Church.

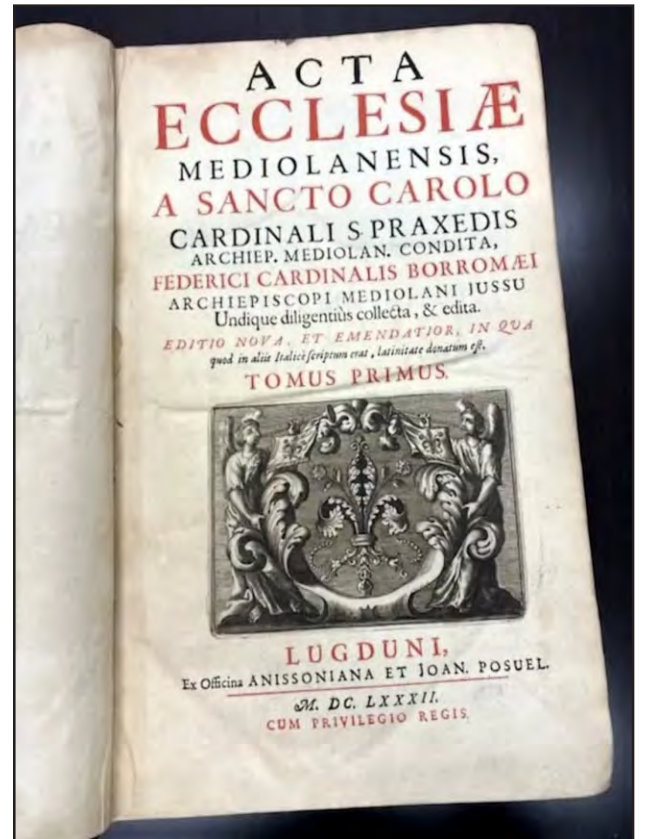
“I have been impressed with Father Khanh’s leadership and it pleases me to recon-



Barbers Hill ISD Superintendent Dr. Greg Poole and Father Khanh Ho of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Mont Belvieu.

nect this historic book with the Catholic Church,” Dr. Poole said.

The transfer places the 343-year-old artifact, a valuable piece of religious and printing history, back into the care of the Catholic church community in Mont Belvieu.



This book is the first edition ecclesiastical work printed in Italy in 1682. The book is written entirely in Latin on vellum paper and retains its original binding.

## Chambers County Issues Burn Ban

CHAMBERS COUNTY - Because of ongoing dry conditions and an increasing drought index as determined by Texas A&M Forest Service, Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia issued a countywide burn ban on October 11, 2025. The City of Mont Belvieu is adopting the same restrictions within city limits to help reduce the risk of wildfires.

During this burn ban, all outdoor burning is prohibited. This includes open burning of any

kind, like:

- \*Trash or brush piles
- \*Campfires or bonfires
- \*Burn barrels or pits
- \*Field or pasture burns

\*Outdoor cooking fires that are not contained (for example, a ground fire or open pit without a lid or screen).

There is an exception for enclosed cooking or heating/cooking devices—such as gas or charcoal grills, smokers, and propane cookers—when used safely and responsibly.

The burn ban will stay in place until conditions improve and the order is lifted by Chambers County.

Violating a burn ban is a Class C misdemeanor, which can result in a fine of up to \$500, according to Texas Local Government Code §352.081.

Residents are encouraged to stay alert to weather conditions and use extra caution when doing any outdoor activities that could create sparks or heat. Please click the link provided to



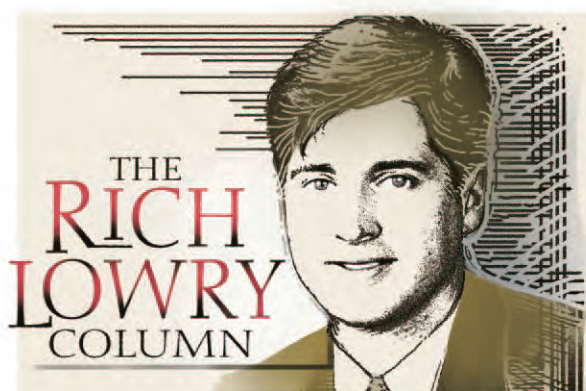
see Judge Sylvia’s entire burn ban proclamation.

This is also a great time to remind you all that open burning is NEVER allowed within Mont Belvieu city limits without special permission from our Fire Marshal and City Manager. Learn more about what is and isn’t allowed by reading the full City Ordinance at

<https://bit.ly/3XYaQJo>

Or Scan the QR code included in this article for more information.

OPINION PAGE



Concerns about physical fitness of the US Military

Doesn't Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth realize that push-ups are passe? His speech to an audience of generals he'd summoned to Washington, D.C., has mystified and outraged critics who think his obsession with physical fitness is out-of-date at best and ridiculous at worst.

"Frankly, it's tiring to look out at combat formations, or really any formation, and see fat troops," Hegseth told the assembled brass. "Likewise, it's completely unacceptable to see fat generals and admirals in the halls of the Pentagon."

"Today, at my direction, every member of the joint force, at every rank, is required to take a PT test twice a year, as well as meet height and weight requirements twice a year, every year of service," he continued.

Cue the eye-rolling.

A piece in The Atlantic observed that Hegseth's "dream world is the world of Ranger school" — an Army training program — "not the actual world of complex military operations involving land, air, sea, space and cyberspace."

He was accused of fat-shaming, and the ladies on "The View" didn't get it. Joy Behar called him out for "his very retro vision for our armed forces," and asked, "Why is he obsessed with fat?" Her colleague Sunny Hostin chimed in, "Yeah, and fitness?"

There's no doubt that physical fitness is very personal to Hegseth, who said the day of his confirmation hearing that he'd done five sets of 47 push-ups that morning. "If the secretary of war can do regular, hard PT, so can every member of our joint force," he told the generals.

But you know who'd agree with him about the centrality of fitness to the military profession? The great 20th-century statesman George C. Marshall. In a 1920 letter, Marshall called being "physically strong" one of the foundations of the military profession. As he said of military leaders in 1940 congressional testimony, they have to inspire their men "when they are hungry and exhausted and desperately uncomfortable and in great danger," and "only a man of positive characteristics of leadership, with the physical stamina that goes with it, can function under those conditions."

Needless to say, combat is an inherently physical activity. It requires incredible exertion for long stretches of time under great stress. It is necessary to carry heavy objects — a wounded comrade, artillery shells — in the worst conditions imaginable. The age of AI and drones hasn't changed this ineluctable fact of human existence.

It's simply a fact that, as any platoon leader will tell you, out-of-shape infantrymen aren't as good at their jobs.

The emphasis on fitness is especially important when the recruiting pool, reflecting an American society where 40% of people are obese, is in poorer shape than it used to be.

And troops do notice and resent it when they are meeting height and weight standards and their comrades aren't, or when their superiors are out of shape. If the colonel who is enforcing disciplinary matters is fat, it is corrosive of his credibility.

Physical fitness standards were dumbed down over the years, and for DEI reasons. The Army had been developing a fitness test that was supposed to have gender-neutral standards. When it emerged, not surprisingly, that women weren't doing as well on the test, the Biden-era Army decided to gender-norm the scores and lower the standards generally.

In a telling exchange with Sen. Tom Cotton, the secretary of the Army at the time said that the Army "didn't want to disadvantage any subgroups."

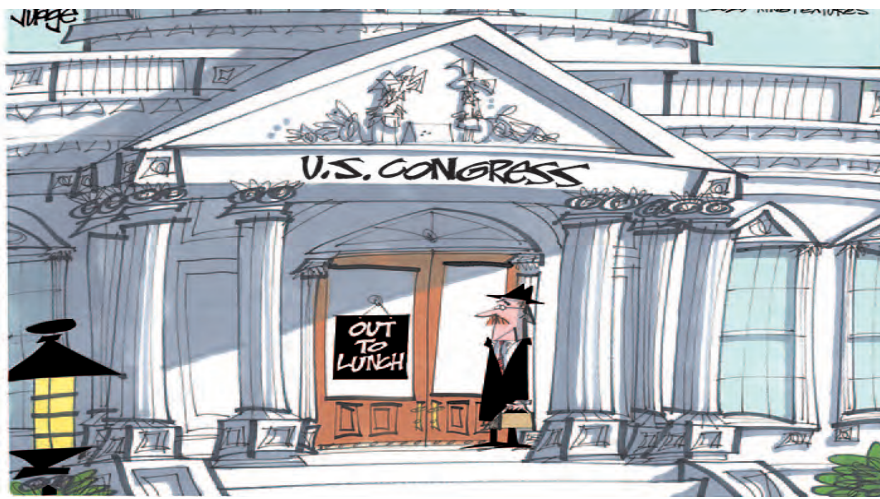
This is why it's so important that Hegseth ordered that the requirement for combat positions "returns to the highest male standard."

Obviously, having a physically fit force doesn't guarantee victory in, say, a war with China, which would require much else besides. But Hegseth was right to make it as clear as possible to our military leaders that the basics are back. Making our force more proficient doesn't begin and end with push-ups, but it does start there.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Redistricting Attracts a Spate of GOP Candidates

Redrawing the state's congressional maps, though being challenged in court, has drawn 114 Republican candidates in the state's 38 districts with nearly two months left until the filing deadline, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The Texas Legislature redrew the maps at the request of President Donald Trump in hopes of gaining five additional GOP seats. As a result, there are winnable seats for Republicans in Houston, San Antonio and Dallas that have drawn 19 GOP candidates to date.

Two Republican members of Congress are seeking statewide office instead of trying to hold on to their current seats. Chip Roy, who represents a Central Texas district, is running for Texas attorney general, while Houston Republican Wesley Hunt recently jumped into the U.S. Senate race.

In addition, Michael McCaul, R-Austin, and Morgan Luttrell, R-Houston, are not seeking reelection. Those four open seats have drawn 25 GOP candidates.

COMPANY TAPPED TO RUN SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM

A New York tech company has been picked to administer the state's new school choice program, the Texas Standard reported. The billion-dollar program passed in the regular legislative session will help parents use taxpayer money to pay for private school tuition, homeschooling expenses, and other educational expenses.

Odyssey, the company, manages education funding in several other states. It will be responsible for both processing applications and ranking families to determine who gets access to funding.

Anyone can apply as long as they have a child eligible to go to public school in K-12 as well as 4-year-olds who are eligible for pre-kindergarten.

Odyssey can receive up to 5% of the total school choice appropriation of \$1 billion, meaning it could earn up to \$50 million for administering the voucher program.

ROBERSON'S EXECUTION DATE PAUSED BY TEXAS COURT



Just a week before his scheduled execution date, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals stayed the execution of Robert Roberson in the death of his two-year-old daughter in 2002. Roberson was convicted of capital murder the following year for shaken baby syndrome, a diagnosis since discredited by most scientists. His case has drawn widespread attention and calls for his exoneration.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that the state's highest criminal court decided to send the case back to trial in Anderson County, where he was convicted. The court cited the case of Andrew Wayne Roark, a North Texas man who was exonerated in a similar "shaken baby syndrome" case.

One of the judges wrote a concurring opinion: "As identified in Roark, our scientific understanding of what has become known as Shaken Baby Syndrome has significantly advanced. Because of this deeper understanding, certain assumptions and conclusions that were once thought to be true may not be."

Roberson, now 58, claims his daughter fell out of the bed in the middle of the night in 2002. He soothed her to sleep, and upon checking on her later that night, found that she was not breathing. She was pronounced dead at an emergency room the next day, and Roberson was eventually charged and convicted of capital murder.

AGENCY RAISING AWARENESS OF SCREWORM THREAT

The Texas Department of State Health Services is calling for increased awareness among health professionals and the public about the New World screwworm. This

parasitic fly can threaten the health of both animals and humans.

The screwworm was previously eradicated in the United States in the 1960s but remained endemic in most of Central and South America. Cases were detected in Mexico in November 2024, raising concerns that it would make its way back across the border.

Cattle have been barred from coming into the United States from Mexico since then, meaning more than a million head of cattle that normally would have headed to Texas feed lots remained south of the border. The number of cattle arriving at Texas feed lots is down 18% from a year ago.

An infected cow was reported less than 100 miles from the Texas border in September, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

CORNYN, PAXTON NECK-AND-NECK, POLL FINDS

A poll published last week shows incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton essentially tied, with new entrant U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt not far behind, according to the Express-News. His entry suggests that no candidate is on track to win an outright majority, making a runoff likely—at least at this point.

The poll by the University of Houston and Texas Southern University, conducted the last two weeks of September, found 34% of respondents favored Paxton to 33% for Cornyn. Hunt picked up 22% of poll respondents with 11% of likely GOP voters polled still undecided.

Trump has yet to weigh in on the race, with all three candidates eager to receive his endorsement, if one is forthcoming. The poll found that half the respondents would vote for any candidate Trump endorsed.

ABBOTT DIRECTS DPS TO INCREASE HEMP ENFORCEMENT

Gov. Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to toughen enforcement against vape and smoke shops that don't comply with new state regulations that prohibit selling hemp-derived products to minors.

Abbott issued an executive order to keep shops from selling hemp-derived products to minors after attempts to either ban such products outright or impose new laws regulating sales failed in the last two special sessions. "Texas will protect children from dangerous hemp products," Abbott said.

DPS will conduct targeted operations to identify vape and smoke shops that could be selling to minors. The effort will include conducting undercover investigations.

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

Loving Strangers



Traveling is inherently annoying. Even if I travel light, I have a heavy handbag, my suitcase catches on the curb, my laptop flops against my hip. Everything takes three times more energy than it seems like it should.

Once I get to the airport, there are more annoyances. People walk slowly, three abreast, oblivious to the fact that they are not moving at the prevailing speed. Everyone takes too much carry-on luggage. People talk too loudly on their cellphones. Younger people sit on the floor and spread all their possessions around them, as if they plan to take up permanent residence in the airport waiting area.

I could feel myself starting to get annoyed as I entered the airport on this trip, and I really didn't want to be that way. I didn't want to be that grouchy person. And so, I wasn't. I played a game that involved finding something to love.

This sounds a little silly. Maybe it sounds like a variation of practicing gratitude—and I suppose it is. But I made a point of looking at every stranger who caught my attention and finding something to love about that person.

The woman in front of me had gorgeous curly hair. The older woman across from me was wearing stylish jeans with buttons running up the ankles. A young woman was tenderly caring for her mother in a wheelchair on a trip that must have exhausted them both. A young father was caring for a fussy baby, bouncing him gently until the baby fell asleep in his arms. My heart hurt for the larger person who had to purchase two seats. He kept his eyes down as the passengers filed past him, and I thought how the simplest thing for me was so much more challenging for him.

And everywhere, I saw worry in the eyes of my fellow travelers. There are, after all, so many things to worry about when you travel. Where is my gate? When do I board? Will there be a place for my luggage? Have I forgotten something? Lost anything? And this is all before the meeting they are going to, the relatives they are visiting, the reason for the travel—which might very well be stressful in and of itself.

I tried to practice love for them all. I suspected the young person on the floor wearing headphones—oblivious to the people stepping over their possessions—had a rich interior life. I smiled at the round woman sitting at the bar, dressed entirely in red, drinking a cocktail. I would never tell her so, but she looked like a very happy tomato (and I really do mean that in a nice way)! I felt so bad for the server at the coffee shop who spilled the drink she was making not once, but twice.

"I hope you get a break soon," I told her.

"I go home smelling like coffee and donuts!" she told me.

"There are worse smells," I said. She smiled.

My practice continued when I got to New York, but instead of keeping these thoughts to myself, I shared a few of them aloud. An older woman was dressed in a sparkly skirt. "You are beautiful, standing in the sunshine!" I told her.

She told me she used to be a singer. I told her I could tell. Quite unexpectedly, she opened her arms and gave me a huge hug.

I stood there on the corner of 42nd Street, a total stranger hugging me in the sunshine, and I felt loved by strangers.

Till next time, Carrie

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# FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 8: Texas look for 3rd straight win on MNF against Seattle: Texas Tech, Arizona State meet up in Big 12 showdown

Just when Houston Texans fans thought their favorite team's season was over after an 0-3 start, the team rebounded with back-to-back convincing wins, the most eye-opening a 44-10 thrashing of Baltimore two weeks ago.

That win marked the first Texans win over the Ravens since 2012 and may have saved their season. Houston enjoyed their bye week and will take on Seattle in the second game of a Monday Night Doubleheader. Texans fans might want to get in a nap on Monday considering the game starts at 9 p.m. on ESPN.

DeMeco Ryans' team has to hope the big road win over the Ravens sets the team up for a run and why not? Quarterback C.J. Stroud had one of the best games of his career throwing four touchdown passes while connecting on 23 of 27 passes. The defense looked solid, coming up with three turnovers against the Lamar Jackson-less Ravens.

They face a Seahawks team that is tough to beat at home, but the extra week to prepare and get players healthy could be a huge boon for the Texans.

The first game of the third MNF doubleheader of the season should be a good one as well as Tampa Bay and Detroit do battle in the Motor City at 6 p.m. on ABC (Channel 13, locally).

Other key games on the Week 7 schedule have a suddenly reeling Philadelphia team facing a tough road test at Minnesota, which will be coming off a bye after a two-week trek in Europe. Two weeks ago, the Eagles dropped their first game of the season, 21-17 at home to Denver, in a game where star running back Saquon Barkley had just six rushes the entire game. That makes no sense for a back who rushed for more than 2,000 yards a year ago.

There's also a big one in the NFC East as Dallas hosts Washington at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. Two weeks ago, both teams picked up nice road wins as the Cowboys offense rolled to a 37-22 win over the hapless Jets, while the Commanders earned an impressive 27-10 win road win against the Chargers. Washington got a huge boost with the return of starting QB Jayden Daniels, who led his team to the victory. This will be a good test for Dallas. A win on Sunday could prove they are a legitimate playoff contender.

The college schedule also has some interesting matchups, most notably in the Big 12 where No. 9-ranked Texas Tech visits defending Big 12 champ Arizona State on Saturday afternoon. Two weeks ago, the Red Raiders looked impressive on both sides of the ball in their 35-11 win on the road against Houston.

The SEC has two big ones as No. 4 Ole Miss visits No. 10-ranked Georgia, while No.11-ranked LSU visits No. 20-ranked Vanderbilt. It might help if Vandy QB Diego Pavia keeps his mouth shut and not talk trash, as he did prior to the Alabama game, which did not end well for the smallish QB as the Tide rolled to a 30-14 victory. Pavia went on the record saying the Commodores would own Bama, but at the end of the day, Vandy was the one who was owned.

No. 5-ranked Texas A&M plays its first road game since its win at Notre Dame on Sept. 13 when they visit a desperate Arkansas team in the Hills. The Hogs are now under the direction of interim head coach Bobby Petrino after Sam Pittman was fired after the Hogs' 56-13 home loss to Notre Dame on Sept. 27.

In District 14-6A play, Eisenhower hosts Dekaney at Thorne Stadium, while Aldine visits Westfield in Spring on that same night. On Friday, Nimitz and Davis hook up in a key game for both teams at Thorne Stadium, while MacArthur takes on Spring in Spring.

Before we take a look at this weekend's game, let's review last week's record. Another 7-5 week (darn you Texas!) brought the season record to 41-29 (59%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

## NCAA

**Ole Miss at Georgia** - Lane Kiffin's No. 3-ranked Rebels face a huge test on the road against No. 10 Georgia on Saturday. The Rebel offense, which is averaging 40 points a game, will face a



tough Bulldogs defense (allowing 17 points per game) that knows it needs to step up the rest of the season after losing at home to Alabama on Sept. 27. Mississippi is led by QB Trinidad Chambliss (1,033 passing yards, 5 TDs/266 rushing yards, 2 TDs), running back Kewan Lacy (445 yards, 8 TDs) and big-play wideout Harrison Wallace III (17 receptions, 361 yards, 21.2 yards per catch, 2 TDs). The Dawgs have a good dual-threat QB as well in Gunner Stockton (1,047 passing yards, 6 TDs/194 rushing yards, 5 TDs). Stockton is complimented by running backs Chauncey Bowns (310 yards, 3 TDs) and Nate Frazier (253 yards, 2 TDs) and dependable wide receivers Calbie Young (18 receptions, 247 yards, 1 TD) and Zachariah Branch (18 receptions, 234 yards, 2 TDs). Look for Georgia to put it all together against the Rebs on Saturday. My pick, Georgia 31, Ole Miss 20

**LSU at Vanderbilt** - No.11 LSU faces No. 20 Vanderbilt on Saturday in a game both teams need to win to remain in the SEC race. The Tigers have been struggling on offense and need QB Garrett Nussmeier (1,157 yards, 7 TDs) to up his game. LSU has had trouble running the ball, which has been a bone of contention in Baton Rouge. Tiger fans are hoping running back Caden Durham (213 yards, 2 TDs) gets it going against the Commodores. Nussmeier will look to make plays downfield to wideouts Aaron Anderson (23 receptions, 305 yards) and Barion Brown (25 receptions, 239 yards, TD). Vandy will count on dual threat QB Diego Pavia (1,409 passing yards, 14 TDs/352 rushing yards, 2 TDs), speedy running back Sedrick Alexander (310 yards, 5 TDs), tight end Eli Stowers (25 receptions, 323 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Junior Sherrill (23 receptions, 274 yards, 5 TDs) to make plays against a pretty solid LSU defense. Look for the Tigers to get things going on offense as Brian Kelly's team picks up a big road win. My pick, LSU 27, Vanderbilt 23

**Texas A&M at Arkansas** - No. 5-ranked Texas A&M hits the road for the first time since its win at Notre Dame on Sept. 13 to take on an Arkansas team that is reeling. Three weeks ago, the Hogs were blown out at home by Notre Dame, 56-13, which cost Sam Pittman his job. Former Hog coach Bobby Petrino was elevated to interim head coach and while the Hogs have some decent players on offense, the defense is woeful. Look for Aggie QB Marcel Reed (1,256 passing yards, 11 TDs/149 rushing yards, 2 TDs), running backs Le'Veon Moss (343 yards, 5 TDs) and Rueben Owens II (276 yards) and wideouts KC Concepcion (24 receptions, 401 yards, 5 TDs) and Mario Craver (30 receptions, 557 yards, 4 TDs) to have big days against the Hogs. My pick, Texas A&M 34, Arkansas 14

**Texas Tech at Arizona State** - No. 11 Texas Tech hits the road for the second time in three weeks to take on No. 21 Arizona State in a key Big 12 contest. The Sun Devils are the defending Big 12 champs and are led by a very good QB in Sam Levitt (1,039 passing yards, 8 TDs/281 rushing yards, 5 TDs). ASU also has a fair runner in Raleek Brown (506 yards, 2 TDs) and a big-play wideout in Jordan Tyson (39 receptions, 483 yards, 7 TDs). This will be the Red Raiders' defense's biggest test of the season, but that unit has answered all challenges thus far allowing just 11 points per game. The Tech defense has also produced 12 sacks and forced 13 turnovers in its first five games. While the defense has been stout, the offense has been productive led by QB Behren Morton (1,410 yards, 12 TDs), and running backs Cameron Dickey (330 yards, 6 TDs) and J'koby Williams (308 rushing yards, 4 TDs/14 receptions, 228 yards, 1 TD). Morton has a boat load of weapons to throw to in wideouts Coy Eakin (24 receptions, 341 yards, 1 TD) and Caleb Douglas (19 receptions, 359 yards, 1 TD) and tight

end Terrance Carter Jr. (20 receptions, 269 yards, 4 TDs). I think Tech's versatile offense will be the difference maker in this one as the Red Raiders pick up a huge road win. My pick, Texas Tech 36, Arizona State 26

## NFL

**Philadelphia at Minnesota** - Two weeks ago, the defending Super Bowl champs lost their first game of the season when they lost at home to the Broncos. The Philly offense looked terrible in the second half as QB Jalen Hurts (889 passing yards, 7 TDs/182 rushing yards, 4 TDs) overthrew and underthrew his receivers. For some unexplained reason, star running back Saquon Barkley (267 yards, 4 total TDs) had just six carries the entire game, while wide receivers A.J. Brown (19 receptions, 194 yards, 1 TD) and DeVonta Smith (25 receptions, 272 yards, 1 TD) have been pedestrian thus far this season. This week, they face a Minnesota team that is coming off their bye after playing two games in Europe. The Vikes will star either J.J. McCarthy (301 yards, 2 TDs) or Carson Wentz (759 yards, 5 TDs) at QB. McCarthy sustained a knee injury in Week 3 and has yet to return. Whoever is under center, will look to make plays downfield to star wide receiver Justin Jefferson (29 receptions, 449 yards, 1 TD). Look for the Minnesota defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Eagles fall again. My pick, Minnesota 26, Philadelphia 23

**Washington at Dallas** - Don't look now, but the Cowboys just might be a serious playoff contender. Dallas has one of the top offenses in the NFL led by QB Dak Prescott (1,356 yards, 10 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (447 yards, 6 total TDs), wide receiver George Pickens (23 receptions, 357 yards, 5 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (41 receptions, 272 yards, 3 TDs). The Cowboys might get star wideout CeeDee Lamb back for this one, which would make the offense all the more formidable. Lamb injured his ankle Sept. 21 against Chicago and should be ready to return soon. The Commanders got a huge lift two weeks ago when star QB Jayden Daniels (664 passing yards, 4 TDs/124 rushing yards) returned to action after missing two weeks with a slight knee injury. He led his team to a 27-10 win over the Chargers in Los Angeles. Daniels also has some weapons in running back Jacory Croskey-Merrett (283 yards, 4 TDs) and wideouts Deebo Samuel (30 receptions, 300 yards, 3 TDs) and Terry McLaurin (10 receptions, 149 yards). The Dallas defense will need to step up if the Cowboys hope to pull off the win against Washington. It says here, they will. My pick, Dallas 33, Washington 27

**Tampa Bay at Detroit** - Game 1 of the Monday Night Football doubleheader could be an offensive shootout as the Buccaneers take on the Lions. This game features two of the league's top QB's, and MVP candidates, in TB's Baker Mayfield (1,283 yards, 10 TDs/144 rushing yards) and Detroit's Jared Goff (1,187 yards, 12 TDs). The Lions have the better running game with its two-headed backfield of Jahmyr Gibbs (325 rushing yards, 4 TDs/22 receptions, 112 yards, 1 TD) and David Montgomery (310 yards, 4 TDs). Both teams have star wide receivers as Tampa is led by rookie sensation Emeka Egbuka (25 receptions, 445 yards, 5 TDs) and the Lions will counter with Amon-Ra St. Brown (35 receptions, 407 yards, 6 TDs). Detroit has the edge at tight end with the productive Sam LaPorta (21 receptions, 209 yards, 1 TD). Look for Goff to outduel the Bucks in a wild one on Monday night. My pick, Detroit 38, Tampa Bay 35

**Houston at Seattle** - The Texans visit Seattle in the MNF nightcap and will be coming off of their bye week. This will be a good road test for C.J. Stroud (1,076 yards, 8 TDs), who threw

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

**LAST WEEK'S SCORES**  
Friday, Oct. 10  
Beaumont West Brook 37, Baytown Sterling 7  
Crosby 52, Humble Kingwood Park 7  
Montgomery Lake Creek 50, Dayton 26  
North Shore 76, Goose Creek Memorial 15  
Port Arthur Memorial 34, Barbers Hill 6  
Rosenberg Terry 41, Baytown Lee 21

**NEXT WEEK'S GAMES**  
Thursday, Oct. 16  
Crosby at Fort Bend Kempner at 7 p.m., at Mercer Stadium in Sugar Land

Friday, Oct. 17  
Barbers Hill at Beaumont United at 7 p.m., at Doggett Family Stadium in Beaumont  
Baytown Lee at Richmond Randle at 7 p.m., at Guy K. Traylor Stadium in Richmond  
Baytown Sterling vs. Lufkin at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium  
Dayton vs. Huntsville at 7 p.m., at Bronco Stadium  
Goose Creek Memorial at Summer Creek at 1 p.m., at Turner Stadium in Humble



four TD passes two weeks ago to lead Houston to a 44-10 thrashing of Baltimore. The Texans will need a big night from running back Nick Chubb (249 yards, 2 TDs) to take pressure off of Stroud. If the running game gets going, Stroud should have time to make plays downfield to star wide receiver Nico Collins (22 re-

ceptions, 312 yards, 2 TDs) and his other wideouts. Seattle has a decent defense, so the Texans offensive line will get tested. Two weeks ago, that defense gave up 38 points to Tampa Bay, but two starters in the secondary missed that game. They should be back for this one. The Seahawks have a productive offense led by QB

Sam Darnold (1,246 yards, 9 TDs), running back Kenneth Walker III (330 yards, 3 TDs) and star wideout Jaxon Smith-Njigba (34 receptions, 534 yards, 2 TDs). The Seattle crowd will be juiced up for this one, which might be the difference maker. My pick, Seattle 26, Houston 23

# Crosby American Legion will host purse fundraiser,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

832-922-3418 or by email a t countrygirl1910@hotmail.com. The organizers are also seeking sponsors for food, wine, and silent auction items, welcoming any support from the community.

One hundred percent of the event's profits will benefit the David H. McNery American Legion Post 658 scholarship fund, which provides financial assistance to seniors from Crosby, Huffman, and C.E. King. In addition to scholarships, some proceeds will help sponsor a child raising a pig, lamb, or goat for the local rodeo, furthering the Legion's commitment to youth development.

"This is all about giving back," McBride explained. "We haven't been able to hold this event for the past couple of years due to some setbacks, but we're determined to get it going again and help as many students as we can."

The Día de los Muertos theme adds a unique cultural touch to the fundraiser, encouraging guests to dress up and celebrate the rich heritage of the community. The event is strictly for adults, with no children allowed, and outside food or beverages are not permitted.

As of now, six tables have been reserved, but organizers hope to see more community members step up to support the cause.

"We really want folks to come out," McBride said. "It's a great night for a great cause."

Those interested in attending, sponsoring, or donating items for the silent auction are encouraged to reach out. Every contribution helps make a differ-

ence in the lives of local students and strengthens the bonds within the Crosby community.

For more information or to get involved, contact Melissa McBride at 832-922-3418

or countrygirl1910@hotmail.com.

Here's a few of the beautiful name brand purses that are presented to winners of the upcoming purse bingo games at the American Legion. It's never too early for Christmas!



## WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 528 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on November 07, 2025 at 12:00 PM at 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1000 Houston, Texas 77046. 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 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: Howard Wilhite, Kenneth Long, Kuno Trostmann and Matthew Maddox

**AGAINST** the proposal: None

**PRESENT** and not voting: None

**ABSENT:** Garold Truax

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)   | <b>\$0.680000 / \$100</b><br>Adopted | <b>\$0.680000 / \$100</b><br>Proposed |
| Difference in rates per \$100 of value  |                                      | \$0.000000 / \$100                    |
| Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)   |                                      | 0.000000%                             |
| Average appraised residence homestead value   | \$299,878                            | \$269,374                             |
| General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) | \$0                                  | \$0                                   |
| Average residence homestead taxable value   | \$299,878                            | \$269,374                             |
| Tax on average residence homestead  | \$2,039.17                           | \$1,831.74                            |
| Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)                                     |                                      | -\$207.43                             |
| and percentage of increase (+/-)  |                                      | -10.172275%                           |

## NOTICE OF VOTE ON 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, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23601, 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.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

### BID NOTICE

### BID NOTICE

### BID NOTICE

## CROSBY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of the Directors of Crosby Municipal Utility District at a meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025 adopted an Ordinance Adopting Amended Rates and Fees for Services and Rules and Regulations; Establishing Certain Other Policies; and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof. A copy of the Ordinance is on file at the principal office of the District, 103 W. Wahl Street, Crosby, Harris County, Texas, where it may be read in full.

*Wesley Zarley*  
President, Board of Directors

Barbers Hill ISD is requesting bids for Erate eligible Category Two goods/services. Additional information is available at [www.crwconsulting.com/ifcb](http://www.crwconsulting.com/ifcb). Bids will be opened 11/04/2025 at 2:00 p.m. At the Barbers Hill Technology Integration Center.

38-27

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Dakota Fanning stars in "Vicious."

"Vicious"

"Freakier Friday" (PG) — With the 2003 film "Freaky Friday" being near and dear to many millennial and Gen-Z hearts, Disney knew exactly what it was doing in green-lighting a sequel to the film. It fared well, grossing \$153 million worldwide on a \$45 million budget, and brought Lindsay Lohan back to the big screen. Jamie Lee Curtis reprises her role as Anna's (Lohan) mother, Tess, in the film, which kicks off with Anna getting engaged to Londoner Eric (Manny Jacinto). Much to her daughter Harper's dismay, Anna debates uprooting them across the pond to appease Eric's daughter, Lily (Sophia Hammons). So, when

some trickery ensues where Tess swaps bodies with Lily and Anna swaps bodies with Harper, Harper and Lily plan to use the situation to their advantage and split their parents up! Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)
"Vicious" (R) — Dakota Fanning is following up her last role in "The Watchers" with yet another horror film, which gives us another example of how well the genre fits the 31-year-old actress. She plays a young woman named Polly, who receives a visitor in the dead of the night. Polly foolishly lets in her visitor, an old woman, who presents her with a mysterious box. The old woman's instructions

are simple: Place inside the box something you need, something you hate, and something you love. Failing to do so in time will result in Polly dying that very night. At first, Polly's at a complete loss as to how to proceed, but as time ticks away, she realizes she has no choice but to give the box exactly what it wants. Premieres on Oct. 10. (Paramount+)

"Mr. Scorsese" (TV-MA) — Italian-American filmmaker Martin Scorsese has been responsible for creating some of the greatest films in Hollywood history, including "Taxi Driver" (1976), "Goodfellas" (1990), "The Departed" (2006), "The Wolf of Wall Street" (2013), and "Killers of the Flower Moon" (2023). The 82-year-old director still has more projects in the pipeline, but now is the perfect time to take a look back at Scorsese's legendary career and how he became an Academy Award and Palme d'Or winner. This five-part documentary series, directed by Rebecca Miller ("She Came to Me"), spans the life of Scorsese from when he was a student at New York University up until the present day. Some interesting names to watch for in this series are Robert De Niro, Steven Spielberg, Brian De Palma, Jodie Foster, and Daniel Day-Lewis. All five parts premiere on Oct. 17. (Apple TV+)
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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Aaron Sorokin's sequel to "The Social Network" (for which he won an Oscar — Best Adapted Screenplay) will be "The Social Reckoning," due in October 2026. Jeremy Strong will play Mark Zuckerberg, while Jeremy Allen White will play Wall Street Journal reporter Jeff Horwitz.



Jeremy Strong (Upcoming in "The Social Reckoning")

Multiple sources say that Universal TV desperately wants to reboot the 1984-89 NBC series "Miami Vice." They want Glen Powell and Michael B. Jordan to respectively play Crockett (originally portrayed by Don Johnson) and Tubbs (originally portrayed by Philip Michael Thomas).

A film reboot with Colin Farrell as Crockett and Jamie Foxx as Tubbs bombed in 2006, grossing \$164 million against a \$150 million cost. It would be a counterproductive career move for Powell or Jordan (who are both major film stars) to do a TV series now, unless they wrote and/or produced it as Powell did with his six-episode Hulu series "Chad Powers."

After seven-and-a-half years of self-imposed retirement, three-time Best Actor Oscar winner Daniel Day-Lewis has returned to acting in films. His last film, "Phantom Thread," bombed in theaters, only grossing \$52.2 million against a \$35 million cost.

His comeback is in the psychological drama "Anemone," which he wrote with his son, Ronan Day-Lewis, who also directed the film. Did Daniel really think that after working on a script for seven years with his son, he could resist playing the lead?

I met Terence Stamp when he created the role of Alfie on Broadway in 1964, and he was dynamic and charismatic. Stamp, who died on Aug. 17 at 87, had one last dream to fulfill before he left this mortal coil. He wanted to star in the sequel of one of his favorite films "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" (1994).

Stephan Elliott, who wrote and directed the original film, wanted to grant Stamp his final dream. The film wasn't

even in production yet, but Stamp spent his final months shooting scenes for the sequel. He stated that he didn't want a digital clone of himself playing Bernadette, just in case he didn't make "the start line."

Guy Pearce and Hugo Weaving, who respectively played Adam Whitely/Feliccia Jollygoodfellow and Anthony "Tick" Belrose/Mitzi Del Bra, are reviving their roles for the film, which will be integrated with Stamp's footage.

Pearce's Netflix psychological thriller "The Woman in Cabin 10," co-starring Keira Knightley and Hannah Waddingham, recently dropped on Oct. 10. He will also star in director Ridley Scott's post-apocalyptic sci-fi flick "The Dog Stars," with Jacob Elordi, Margaret Qualley and Josh Brolin. It'll release in March 2026. Meanwhile, Weaving's last film was the Australian drama "How to Make Gravy."

James Dean may have had two films that were released posthumously — "Rebel Without a Cause" (1955) and "Giant" (1956) — but Stamp did him one better. He shot a film before it was even in production, proving that he knew how to leave his indelible Stamp on a film!
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ENTERTAINMENT

October 13, 2025 Posting Date

Amber Waves



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HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip and Trivia Test Answers section

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