



Highlands Library San Jacinto & Magnolia by Jill Rowlands

HIGHLANDS LIBRARY in 1937
(NOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING).
Sketch for Art League of Highlands.
See Story Below & on Page 5.

IN THE STARS

Extreme Machine Car Show at Crosby Church Sunday October 26

Crosby Church invites you to the annual Extreme Machine Car Show, Saturday October 26 from 10am to 4pm at the church, 5725 Highway 90, Crosby Texas 77532.

The event will include a kids area, petting zoo, Ninja course, food, pinewood derby, entertainment and trunk or treat candy.

CAR SHOW: Top 20, Best of Show, Oldest Car, MORE...

Visit our Website for all Star-Courier news and Back Issues:
www.STARCOURIERNEWS.COM

Chamber Building purchased, to be Razed

Highlands History will disappear: Original Library Building

HIGHLANDS – The board of the Highlands Water Company (Harris County Water Control & Improvement District #1) has announced that they purchased the property adjacent to their office building on San Jacinto Street.

The building currently houses the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce, and was originally built in 1937 for a public library for the Highlands community. (See *History of the Highlands Public Library on page 5*).

According to Chamber representatives, the building was sold for \$30,000. After the retirement for health reasons of the previous Chamber Director, Jessica Woods, the building was little used, and in need of major repairs.

The Water Company has offered to donate the building to someone who will



HIGHLANDS-LYNCHBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING, seen above, has been sold to the Highlands Water District, whose office is in the building next door on San Jacinto Street. The Chamber building was originally the Highlands Public Library, built in 1937 until replaced by Stratford Library. The photo shows the Memorial Wall, where townsfolk and Chamber members placed engraved tiles in remembrance. The building will be removed from the site, according to Mark Taylor, manager of the Water Company, and become landscaped parking for the water company.

move the building of the site, to another location. If no one indicates an interest in the next 30 days, the Manager of the Water Com-

pany, Mark Taylor, indicated that the building will be torn down and the property turned into a landscaped parking lot.

Meanwhile, the Chamber has made plans to relocate, first placing their records and memorabilia in storage, and then searching for a

new location for their office.

There is a Memorial Wall with engraved tiles of names of townspeople. Reba Rachall of the Chamber indicated that anyone who would like to preserve their tile, which were paid for with donations, is welcome to remove them and take them.

Likewise, inside the building are many items of memorabilia, including photographs, a model of the old interurban car that passed through Highlands, trophies, photos, award plaques and much more. The Chamber is unable to store any of this, and welcomes anyone who would like to retrieve items they donated or have value to them. Call 281-513-7267 to make arrangements.

MORE information about the Highlands Library History on Page 5.

Crosby Huffman Chamber Elects New Board, Celebrates Growth

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Crosby Huffman Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual board election at Crosby Church last Thursday, marking a year of revitalization and community engagement. Chamber President Velma Ellison recapped the organization's achievements and outlined ambitious plans for the coming year.

"We embarked on an initiative in 2024 to revive and spruce up the chamber in every area," Ellison said. She detailed improvements to the chamber office, including a new roof, leveling, gutters, and interior renovations.



New board members are front row, from left, Trudi Griffith, Tiffany Mueller, and Billy Bostick. Back row from left, Travis Mann, Lance Cole, Lee Ann Lockwood, Velma Ellison, John Tallent, and Tom Currie.

"Once we had the exterior solid, we went to work on the interior by repairing and painting the walls, redecorating,

along with updating our conference room, which seats 12 people and has a large, big screen TV, a monitor for training and

meeting purposes. Members can use that room for free," she said.

Ellison also highlighted the chamber's updated

website, which serves as a hub for member businesses and referrals.

"Often in my business as a realtor, someone will ask me to refer somebody to them. If I don't have someone in my back pocket, I immediately go to the chamber site and I've been able to refer a lot of roofers lately," she said.

The chamber hosted several successful events in 2025, including the annual awards banquet, the Tees and Tails Golf Tournament, the first Concert on the Water, and the New Educators Luncheon. Looking ahead, the annual Christmas Festival and night parade are scheduled for December 13.

Membership growth

was another highlight, with 49 new members and 81 renewals.

"It is exciting to see the growth within the Chamber," Ellison noted. "Our Chamber ambassadors and office staff have been really busy welcoming our new members with ribbon cuttings, welcoming them to the chamber, and we often forget how much we've done until we look back all at once, and it's very impressive to see how much we've accomplished in one year."

As part of the process of updating the chamber, they also modernized their logo, replacing the marquee at the office and the welcome sign at High

Continued. See CROSBY HUFFMAN CHAMBER ELECTS NEW, Page 2

Crosby Author Peggy Bell Releases New Book Offering Support for the Grieving

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Peggy Bell, an award-winning author, certified grief and life coach, and retired educator, has released her latest book, "Hope After Heartache: Moving Through the Storm of Grief." The book is designed to help anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one or supporting someone through grief, drawing on Bell's decades of experience as both a teacher and a writer.

Bell, who has written eight books over her career, shared that her journey into grief writing began after the loss of her husband in 2009.

"I wanted to do something. I didn't want his death to be in vain. I just felt a calling to help widows," Bell explained. Her first grief-



Peggy Bell Author of the Book "Hope After Heartache: Moving Through the Storm of Grief."

cused book, "Life After Loss for Widows," led to the creation of a large online support group for widows, and her work has since expanded to

Continued. See CROSBY AUTHOR TURNS PERSONAL, Page 2

Highlands Rotary, Chinquapin Interact Team up for Seniors



Highlands Rotary and Chinquapin Interact Club work together at the senior citizens Halloween Lunch. The Interactors worked with Rotarians serving food and cleaning up. Thank you to all for joining us today.

STAR-COURIER PHONES: 713-266-3444 • E-MAIL: GRAFIKSTAR@AOL.COM • ADS: 713-977-2555



GHOST YOUR OLD BANK

JOIN THE CREDIT UNION THAT'S BEEN SERVING MEMBERS FOR 90 YEARS!



281.422.3611
CRCU.ORG/REFER90

Crosby author turns personal loss into purpose,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

help anyone experiencing loss. Bell moved to Crosby in 2017, the same weekend as when Hurricane Harvey hit the area.

Like most writers, Bell's books are born out of her own journey.

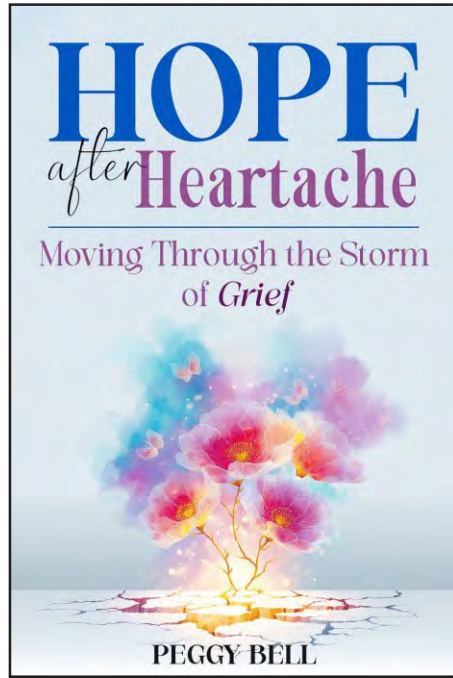
"I lost my husband in 2009, and that period was incredibly challenging for me," Bell shared. "All of my family lived out of state, so we were the only ones in Texas. At the same time, my eldest daughter was preparing for her wedding in four months, and my youngest was getting ready to leave for college. I had just recovered from surgery, so I was dealing with an empty nest, planning a funeral, and organizing a wedding all at once. My youngest was leaving home, and I felt deeply lonely. After being married for 30 years, I found myself questioning my identity and my role in life. I was no longer the caretaker, my children didn't need me as much, and I didn't know who I was anymore. It was a very isolating experience, and I promised myself that if I could help even one widow feel less alone, it would be worth sharing my story."

In "Hope After Heartache," Bell addresses the emotional challenges of grief, including disbelief, sadness, anger, and loneliness, as well as the secondary losses that often accompany bereavement.

"Grief is brutal, and it does not discriminate. The grief journey can bring with it a range of emotions... If that wasn't difficult enough, it also delivers secondary losses which grievers may not have anticipated but are now forced to handle," Bell writes in her book.

Bell emphasizes that while grief is a universal experience, suffering through it for a lifetime is not inevitable.

"Death is a mandatory life event for us all. We need to face our grief from the start. It is not something we can ignore. However, suffering painfully through grief for the rest of our lives is optional," she notes.



Bell's newest book.

The book covers topics such as the grief journey timeline, guilt and regret, secondary losses, and how grief evolves over time. Bell also includes practical advice for those supporting grievers, recognizing that many people feel abandoned simply because others don't know what to say or do.

"Our society is grief illiterate when it comes to knowing what to say, what to do for people who are grieving. That's why they feel so lonely, because people have abandoned them, because people really don't know what to do," Bell said.

"Hope After Heartache" is available on Amazon, and Bell periodically hosts sessions at The Collaboratory in Crosby and one coming up on Nov. 1 at The Collaboratory in Crosby at 2 p.m. To get on her mailing list and inquire about sessions and books, contact her at info@peggybell.com.

Burn Ban Enacted for Harris County

HARRIS COUNTY - The Harris County Commissioners Court approved a burn ban for unincorporated Harris County due to ongoing dry weather and heightened fire danger. Fire weather conditions arise when high temperatures, low humidity, strong winds, and dry vegetation combine, creating an environment where wildfires can ignite easily and spread quickly. These conditions pose serious risks to our communities, wildlife, and county resources. Currently, 151 counties across Texas, including our neighbors in Fort Bend County, Waller County, Montgomery County, Chambers County, and Liberty County, are also under burn bans in efforts to reduce wildfire threats.

What does a burn ban mean?

The burn ban prohibits all outdoor burning unless it occurs within an enclosure that contains all flames and sparks.

What is allowed:
--Outdoor burning authorized by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
--Approved ceremonial fires.

--Non-commercial cooking like backyard cookouts and barbecues.
--Additionally, welding and other "hot work" can be carried out as long as they comply with county fire code regulations.

The burn ban is being issued amid the Diwali fireworks sale season that began Monday, October 13, 2025. While fireworks sales will continue until midnight of October 23, 2025, sales will be subject to specific restrictions to reduce fire risk. In accordance with state legislation and the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDDI), which measures forest fire danger, the commissioner's court has approved a ban on the sale of certain fireworks. Specifically, vendors are prohibited from selling skyrockets with sticks and



Fireworks Sales are permitted through Diwali, but not these Rockets.

missiles with fins.

The HCFMO strongly advises leaving fireworks displays to the professionals. If you choose to use consumer fireworks, please follow these safety guidelines:

--Read all caution labels carefully.
--Keep a water source nearby in case of emergencies.

--Thoroughly soak used fireworks before disposing of them in the trash.

Violation of the burn ban is a Class "C" misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In addition, any person who starts a fire that causes damage to property without the owner's consent may be charged with Reckless Damage or Destruction, a Class "C" misdemeanor, or arson, a felony.

To protect our community and help prevent wildfires, please comply with the burn ban currently in effect. During dry conditions, certain outdoor activities can significantly increase the risk of large fires. Always exercise caution when handling anything that generates heat or sparks and take extra precautions during periods of particularly dry weather. Additionally, here are some important safety tips to follow:

--Use precautions when outdoor cooking:
--Avoid placing the grill on dry grass or other plant material. A stray spark could easily start a fire.
--If using a charcoal starter fluid, never add it

after the grill has started. The liquid could spark a flare-up and cause an injury.

--When finished with charcoal grilling, let the coals completely cool and dispose of them in a metal container, and soak in water.

--Properly discard cigarettes and other smoking materials

--Never throw a lit cigarette or cigarette butt out the window of a vehicle. It could land on dry grass or be blown into dry vegetation and start a fire.

--Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants, or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves, or other things that could ignite easily.

--Beware of threats related to lawn maintenance and vehicles in dry conditions.

--Lawnmowers are designed to mow lawns, not weeds or dry grass. Metal blades striking rocks can create sparks and start fires.

--Avoid driving through tall grass and never park your vehicle on dry grass or leaves. Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires.

--Adjust the safety chains on your trailers to ensure they don't drag and create sparks that can cause roadside fires.

All fires start small. If you see an unattended fire, call 9-1-1 and notify your local fire department immediately. In dry conditions, a small fire can spread quickly and threaten people and property.

To learn more about the burn ban, how to prepare your home for a wildfire, and more dry weather safety, visit us at [HCFMO - Wildfire & Burn Bans](http://HCFMO-Wildfire&BurnBans).

The mission of the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office is to safeguard the lives and property of the residents in Harris County through effective fire prevention, fire investigation, education, emergency response, and emergency management.

Crosby Huffman Chamber elects new board,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

way 90. They also invested in a repeat banner with the chamber logo.

A major initiative for 2025 is the partnership with CenterPoint Energy to install 58 new streetlights along FM 2100.

"This is not just a short-term improvement, it is a lasting investment that will keep our main thoroughfare safely lit for generations to come," Ellison said. She called on businesses and communi-

ty members to support the project.

"Together we can improve safety, visibility, and quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and travels through Crosby. This is a community effort, and we are depending on your support to help keep Crosby's light shining bright."

New board members elected include Lance Cole (ESI Fire and Security), Trudi Griffith

(United Community Credit Union), Lee Ann Lockwood (Churches United In Caring), and Tom Currie (Frank's Collision Center), Billy Bostick (Bostick Services), and John Tallent (Skeetercide). Re-elected board members are Travis Mann (Capital Farm Credit), Tiffany Mueller (Crosby Church), and Velma Ellison (Alliance Properties).

Northeast Harris County a Prime Target for Fiber Optic Vandals

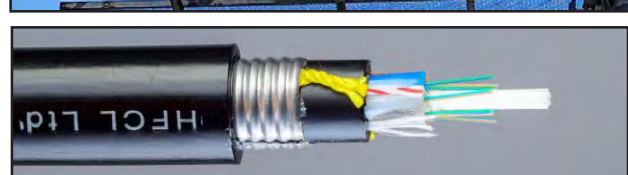
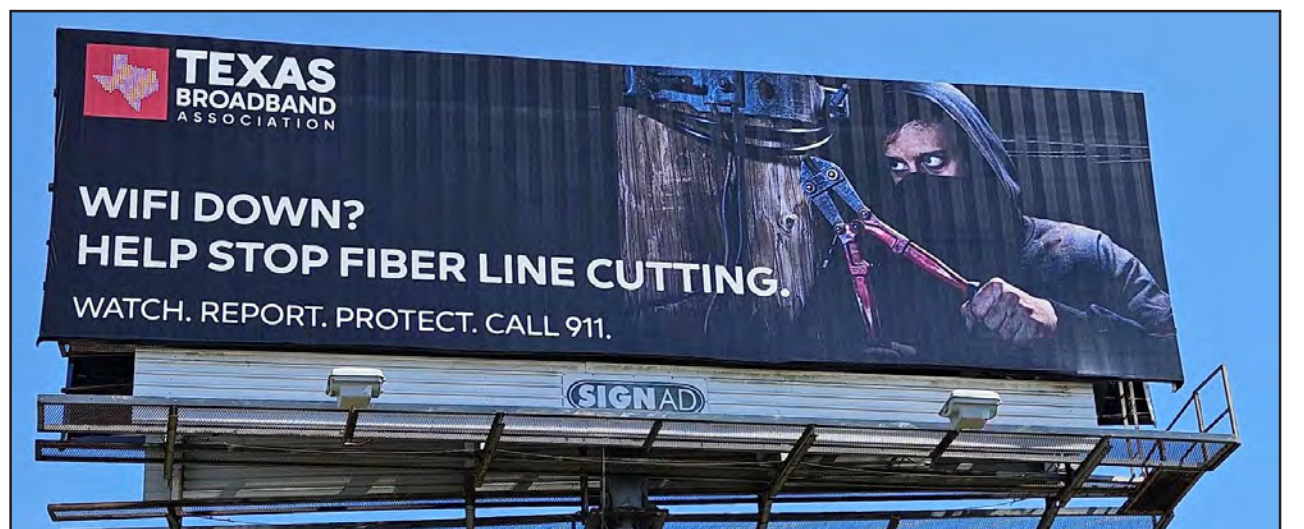
HARRIS COUNTY - Houston-area internet service providers, along with the Harris County District Attorney's Office and 86 law enforcement agencies, have formed a task force to take on vandals targeting fiber optic lines. According to Harris County crime data, Crosby and Huffman are two prime areas vandals target when looking to make a quick buck from what they think are lines filled with precious metals, such as copper. The three zip codes with the most frequent telecommunications vandalism this year are: 77532 (Crosby), 77336 (Huffman), and 77039 (the Aldine area in north Houston).

Telecommunication line vandalism is on the rise and driven by the rising price of copper. According to the Houston Police Department, the city has experienced a 17% spike in cases of cable lines being cut by thieves over the past year, with most acts of wire cutting happening between the 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. timeframe. Each incident causes ripple effects, interrupting essential services like 911 access, remote work, and even filling prescriptions. Sgt. Robert Carson with the Houston Police Department says, "One act of vandalism can cut off service to tens of thousands of homes. In many homes, people are running small businesses. So not only are we talking about inconvenience, but we're also talking about big hits to a business's bot-

tom line." In recent months, Harris County District Attorney Sean Teare has appeared in public service announcements vowing to use a new state law to go after vandals with felony charges. "My message for anyone cutting Internet lines is it is not going to be tolerated here. We work inside our office with our task force and collaboratively with all 86 police agencies in this area. We will find you and we will put you in prison."

Drivers along Highway 90 in Crosby will soon see billboards raising even more awareness and asking anyone who sees or hears about telecommunication line vandalism to call 911. The Texas Broadband Association (TBBA) is also placing billboard messages near scrapyards where criminals may try to sell the lines once they've cut them down. TBBA Executive Director Shelly Botkin says, "The damage to critical infrastructure, such as telecommunications networks, presents a significant risk to public safety and national security - putting Texans at risk. It's also a huge inconvenience, costing anywhere from hundreds to thousands of dollars an hour in lost productivity."

In fact, acts of fiber line vandalism are increasing. According to the NCTA (The Internet and Television Association), there were 9,770 reported incidents across the country in just the first half of 2025.



That's nearly double the number from the previous six months. Texas has been hit especially hard. A new study, published this month by economist Edward Lopez, estimates that between June and December 2024, the state lost about \$18.1 million - not only from stolen materials but also from broader impacts like lost productivity.

Making matters worse, the inconvenience is pointless. Botkin says vandals mistakenly believe cutting into fiber optic infrastructure will give them access to precious metals, such as copper. "Many of the modern fiber optic networks contain no precious metals. Fiber optics technicians respond almost immediately to acts of vandalism, but these glass

strands are delicate. Repair work has to be done at the microscopic level. It takes time to fix the damage, especially when repairs have to happen overnight when most vandalism occurs." If the damage is significant enough, it could take hours or even a full day to make the repairs and get neighborhoods back online.

Ask many people in Crosby and Huffman, they will tell you they have lost count how many times they've been knocked offline by vandalism. Lana Chase, a Crosby mom, says she's often left wondering when her family can reconnect. "I think it's ridiculous that a handful of people - up to no good - can cause so much disruption to workplaces, homes, and businesses. Especially



those elderly and vulnerable people who depend on their Wi-Fi to connect with doctors or other important services through the internet."

Area law enforcement and internet service providers are working collaboratively to stop vandalism, with the billboard campaign just one tool in raising awareness. Botkin added, "We ask the

public to also join us in this effort; if you see something, say something by alerting law enforcement. To our friends and neighbors in the Crosby and Huffman area, most especially, ending vandalism will make a significant impact on reducing the number of temporary service interruptions. It will take all of us working together to end this behavior."

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

VOL. 30, NO. 41

© Copyright 2025

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

MB Parade Applications Are OPEN



Parade applications for the 2025 Christmas on the Hill Parade are officially open. This year's theme, Country Christmas, is bringing small-town charm and country cheer to the streets of Mont Belvieu. From festive farm scenes to western winter wonderlands, we're celebrating the season the down-home way with twinkling lights, toe-tappin' tunes, and a whole lot of holiday heart. Dust off your boots and get ready for a Country Christmas on The Hill that's full of festive flair as one of the biggest and best holiday traditions in Texas rolls down Eagle Drive on December 7.

Gather your group and get ready to spread some holiday cheer! All of the parade details, guidelines, and an online application are available at www.montbelvieu.net/parade. Applications for this year's parade will close on Monday, November 3.

Parade FAQs

1. How much does it cost? Each accepted entry will be assessed a \$50 fee. Parade managers will reach out to accepted entries with payment information.

2. How long is the parade? The parade route is a little over a mile long and will take approximately 90 minutes.

3. Are there prizes/awards? Yes! Parade entries will compete for one of 7 highly coveted parade awards. The full list of categories can be found at www.montbelvieu.net/parade

4. Will the parade still only go down one side of Eagle Dr.? Yes. Parade entries should orient themselves to present to the Barbers Hill ISD side (East side) of Eagle Dr.

5. What is the parade route? A map of this year's route can be found at www.montbelvieu.net/parade

Baytown Habitat Uncorked

Formerly known as Opening Doors
November 6 | 6pm - 9pm
Yeppez 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



United Way, Exxon Team Up with Baytown Habitat to Begin Next Home Build

Day of Caring

United Way and Exxon teamed up to help Baytown Habitat start building our next home. With the help of over 25 volunteers, we were able to complete 23 trusses.

Thank you to the hard-working crew for completing the beginning of a family's new home.

We also want to thank Texas Roadhouse for donating lunch for the day to keep everyone going. Thank you, Andrea and the Baytown Texas Roadhouse for always being amazing partners.



Bojangles Brings Southern Flavor to Baytown with New Restaurant Opening and Chamber Ribbon Cutting

BAYTOWN, TEXAS — The Baytown Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome Bojangles, a beloved Southern restaurant chain, to the Baytown community! Baytown Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors celebrated the official Grand Opening with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Monday, October 20th at 9:00 AM. The newly built Bojangles is located at 8239 N. Highway 146 in Bay-



Bojangles Director of Operations Tony Youssef, General Manager Eufayba Sims, Marketing & Catering Manager Reckell Mitchell, Bojangles staff joined by Baytown Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors

town.

This marks the first Bojangles location in Baytown and the surrounding area, bringing its famous fried chicken, made-from-scratch biscuits, sweet tea and scrumptious blueberry cookies to local residents eager for a taste of true Southern hospitality. The new restaurant is part of Bojangles' continued Texas expansion and commitment to community engagement.

"We're thrilled to welcome Bojangles to Baytown," said Member Services Director, Tammy Moyers Martinez. "Their arrival not only adds another great dining option for our residents but also creates new jobs and opportunities for our community." Guests were treated to samples of their signature menu items, great music, conversation and that true southern hospitality the chain is known for.

Sarah Hartsfield Sentenced to Life in Prison in Husband's Death

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The conviction of Sarah Jean Hartsfield for the murder of her fifth husband, Joseph Hartsfield, has brought to light a chilling pattern of violence and manipulation spanning decades. On October 8, 2025, a Chambers County jury found Hartsfield, 50, guilty of murder for the 2023 insulin overdose death of her husband, concluding a complex investigation that has shocked the community and prompted authorities to revisit several past cases.

The case began on January 7, 2023, when Joseph Hartsfield was admitted to Houston Methodist Hospital with a suspicious illness. Hospital staff, noting inconsistencies in his condition and medical history, alerted the Chambers County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Corporal Yeatman and Deputy Southwell responded, quickly involving Detective Skyler Rocz, who uncovered further inconsistencies and evidence suggesting foul play.

"From the very beginning, our investigators followed their instincts," said Sheriff Brian Hawthorne. "They identified the suspicious circumstances surrounding Mr. Hartsfield's death that could have been labeled as 'death due to illness' instead of murder."

Detective Rocz's relentless investigation led to the discovery of text messages in which Sarah Hartsfield discussed her "exit strategy" and her husband's life insurance just days before his death. These findings,



News media from around the nation followed the sensational story including Today Dateline NBC who was in the sheriff's office in Anahuac, Texas. Detective Skyler Rocz is seen discussing details with Chambers County Sheriff Brian Hawthorne.

combined with other evidence, convinced District Attorney Cheryl Lieck Henry to convene a grand jury. On February 3, 2023, Hartsfield was indicted for murder, and Judge Chap Cain set her bond at \$5 million.

As the trial unfolded, prosecutors revealed a disturbing history of violence in Hartsfield's relationships. Testimonies and records showed that each of her five marriages was marked by instability, threats, and physical assaults.

Her first ex-husband testified, "I was surprised I got out alive," describing his fear during their tumultuous 1990s marriage.

The prosecution also introduced evidence of a murder-for-hire plot against an ex-husband's new wife and multiple house fires linked to former partners. The pattern of abusive relationships was a key element in building the case against Hartsfield, demonstrating her willingness to resort to extreme and lethal vio-



Sarah Jean Hartsfield, 50, was sentenced to life in prison and will be eligible for parole in 30 years.

lence.

Joseph Hartsfield's uncle testified that Joseph had planned to leave his wife and had confided in family members about his fear of his safety.

"He was afraid of what she might do to him," the uncle said.

On October 8, 2025, the jury found Sarah Hartsfield guilty of murder, concluding that she had exploited her husband's type 1 diabetes by administering a lethal dose of insulin. She was sentenced to life in prison and will be eligible for parole in 30 years.

Sheriff Hawthorne praised the combined efforts of the Chambers County District Attorney's Office and Assistant District Attorney Mallory Vargas.

"This verdict represents justice for Joseph Hartsfield and his loved ones. I'm incredibly proud of our investigators and thankful for the outstanding work of the District Attorney's Office in pursuing this case from the very beginning. Their partnership and persistence ensured that the truth came to light and jus-



Joseph Hartsfield was a graduate of C. E. King High School in Sheldon and had a host of friends.

tice was served."

Joseph Hartsfield was a 1995 graduate of C. E. King High School in Sheldon where he participated in sports and theater, many of whom posted thoughts and prayers for the popular student.

"He was on our tech crew for a couple of our musicals, 'Hello Dolly' and 'The Music Man,'" said Claudia Lamascus, his drama teacher. "He was a nice kid," she remembered.

Hundreds of comments filled Facebook as many followed the shocking details that led to his demise.

The conviction has prompted authorities to reopen the 2018 fatal shooting of Hartsfield's ex-fiancé, as well as to review other incidents connected to her previous relationships.

HARTSFIELD TIME-LINE

1990s: Sarah Hartsfield's first marriage ends in tragedy. She claims her husband's death was an act of self-defense, a version accepted by authorities at the time.

Between 1990s and 2023: Hartsfield marries

four more times. Each relationship is marked by instability, threats, and violence. Testimonies and records reveal a pattern of abusive behavior.

2018: Fatal shooting of her ex-fiancé occurs. The case is later reopened following her 2025 conviction.

January 7, 2023: Joseph Hartsfield, Sarah's fifth husband, is admitted to Houston Methodist Hospital with a suspicious illness and later died. Chambers County deputies and Detective Skyler Rocz begin investigating after inconsistencies are found.

February 3, 2023: District Attorney Cheryl Lieck Henry convenes a grand jury, resulting in Sarah Hartsfield's indictment for murder. Judge Chap Cain issues an arrest warrant and sets bond at \$5 million.

During the Investigation: Evidence emerges of a murder-for-hire plot against an ex-husband's new wife and multiple house fires linked to former partners. Text messages reveal Sarah was planning her "exit strategy" and discussing Joseph's life insurance days before his death.

October 8, 2025: A jury finds Sarah Hartsfield guilty of murdering Joseph Hartsfield by administering a lethal dose of insulin, exploiting his type 1 diabetes.

October 8, 2025: Sarah Hartsfield is sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole in 30 years. She was also fined \$10,000.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By Dean Ridings
CEO, America's Newspapers

Recognizing how Newspapers make a Difference

National Newspaper Week, Oct. 5 - 11, 2025

National Newspaper Week begins today. While this isn't the typical holiday that most families celebrate, it does provide a good opportunity to take a moment and recognize all the ways that local newspapers make a difference in communities across America.

If you're reading this, you probably already have a good understanding of why it is important to have a healthy newspaper in your town. By subscribing to or advertising in your local newspaper, you are providing much needed support to keep trained, professional journalists covering the issues important to you. Your local newspaper is committed to being the local watchdog, covering city government, public utilities and school boards to make sure your tax dollars are being spent properly.

But, there are many other ways newspapers serve their readers and communities, things even regular readers might not always consider.

Newspapers are reliable. Unlike content you can see on social media, or even from national publications or cable news channels, you can be sure that news from your local newspaper is professionally gathered, fact-checked and edited. Even the editorials and letters to the editor go through a rigorous process to get the facts correct. You might not always agree, but you can rely on the fact that what's published has followed the highest journalistic standards. You may not agree with the positions on your newspaper's editorial page, but you probably realize that their goal is to provide you with objective and impartial news coverage in the rest of the paper.

Newspapers protect your right to know. In addition to covering what's going on in your local government, most newspapers serve another critical purpose by publishing public notices. A public notice is a notice issued by government agencies regarding proposed actions, zoning proposals, tax initiatives or other lawmaking proceedings. Most local governments are required to publish them in local newspapers, so all citizens have the opportunity to know what's going on, and if necessary, take appropriate action. Newspapers provide broad community distribution. Moving a public notice to a municipal website would be like hiding the notice. Newspapers help keep your government's actions transparent!

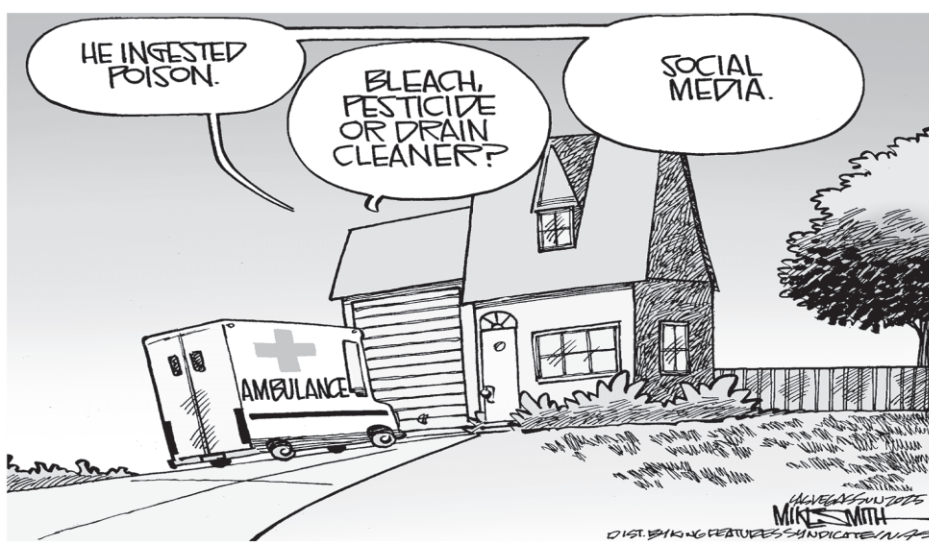
Newspapers are more than print. Your local newspapers deliver high-quality information in the format that works best for you. Newspapers have dynamic websites, apps, social media channels and newsletters, and they have made significant advancements in digital platforms to make sure you get the news you need when you want it and how you want it. Newspaper audiences are bigger than ever thanks to the broad reach provided by the combined print and digital channels.

Newspapers are local. Your newspaper is local, produced by local citizens who drive the same streets, shop in the same stores and have children in the same schools as you. The local newspaper's focus is on making the community stronger, safer and healthier. The publisher and staff share the same concerns as all the other residents.

Your local newspaper makes a difference in your community in many ways! That's true every week, not just during National Newspaper Week!

Dean Ridings is the CEO of America's Newspapers, an organization serving more than 1,600 newspapers across the U.S. and Canada. Learn more at newspapers.org.

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



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Strange Dreams



"I had a very strange dream," my sister said, "and you were in it. You want to hear?"

"Sure."

"I was fired! I came to school, and my fob wouldn't work."

My sister is a teacher. It is very unlikely that she would be fired and unlikelier yet that she would be fired without notice.

"But the funny thing was, I wasn't upset. You were upset. You kept saying, 'They can't do that to you! You need to talk to the principal!'"

"Well, I would be upset," I said, getting a little upset just thinking about it. "I had a weird dream, too. You want to hear?"

"Sure," my sister said.

"I had this body in my garage. I don't know how it got there. I don't think I killed anyone, but it was still a problem. I needed to get rid of it. So I asked a couple of friendly women if they would help me. It was much too large to carry. They agreed, and we all went out to my garage."

"That is weird," my sister said.

"That wasn't the weird part. When we got there, the body was gone—or almost all gone. It looked as if little animals had eaten it up. I guessed it was mice or rats or raccoons. Anyway, it was almost all gone, just a few bone fragments here and there. One of my new friends picked up a whisk broom, and we swept up what was left, and it all fit into a one-quart measuring cup. 'That was easy!' my new friend said. Then we tramped outside to bury it."

"That is very weird," my sister said.

"It was a happy dream—that was what was weird," I said.

"My dream about getting fired wasn't unhappy," my sister said. "You were just unhappy."

"Very strange."

I am sure that if a person wanted to, they could have a great time figuring out what ails my sister and me, but I don't put too much stock in dreams, other than to note the emotions that come along with them. I have woken in terror over something that seems—upon waking—completely harmless. And then I have a dream where I am cheerfully disposing of a corpse.

My husband, Peter, has repeated nightmares where he is back at the summer camp where he was a director in his 20s. I wish I could tell you that he was canoeing or building bonfires. But every dream is the same. The plumbing in the communal camp restroom has backed up, and there is sewage water everywhere. With the recent leaks in our apartment, Peter has had far too many occasions to relive this nightmare, and it makes perfect sense.

But my sister is adored by her school, and I have never had occasion to dispose of a body, so our dreams are puzzling.

Possibly it is our subconscious daring us to deal with the scariest thing we can come up with, just to see how we do. Our dreams are little tests to see how we would do in terrible situations. My sister learned she would be fine, but her family would feel terrible for her. I imagined I would round up new friends to deal with whatever situation arose. Peter knows that now, just like then, he'd have a big mess to clean up.

"What do you think it means?" I asked Peter the morning I woke up after having swept up the remainder of the bones.

"It means you have strange dreams," Peter said.

I figure he's right. Till next time,
Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Trio of Judges to Rule on Congressional Map

Trio of judges to rule on congressional map

The same plaintiffs who are challenging the state's 2021 congressional map are asking a panel of three federal judges to block using the new GOP-approved districts from being used in the March midterms. The Texas Tribune reported this is the first legal test for the redrawn districts, which are intended to increase the Texas congressional seats held by Republicans by five.

The hearing began Wednesday in El Paso and is expected to last nine days. Voting rights lawsuits are initially heard by two district judges and one circuit judge. Their ruling can only be appealed directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Several lawsuits were filed after Texas legislators redrew voting maps in 2021 following the decennial census. Those suits were consolidated into one case, League of United Latin American Citizens versus Abbott. As with the 2021 lawsuit, the latest complaint claims the new map harms the voting rights of Latino and Black voters.

Time is running short, with the filing deadline for candidates on Dec. 8. "All of this, every part of this, is about the clock right now," said Justin Levitt, a voting rights expert at Loyola Law School. "The plaintiffs want an answer as soon as possible. Texas wants to stall like crazy. All of this is about what's going to get a court to deliver an answer before the next election."

Texas Stock Exchange gets SEC approval

The Dallas-based Texas Stock Exchange has received approval to operate as a national securities exchange from the federal Securities and Exchange Commission, KERN News reported. The announcement came exactly a year after Gov. Greg Abbott celebrated the exchange's creation.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

TXSE is the first exchange to receive SEC approval in decades. It will launch trading and corporate listings in 2026.

"Today's approval marks a pivotal moment in our effort to build a world-class exchange rooted in alignment, transparency, and partnership with issuers and investors," said James H Lee, founder and CEO of TXSE.

Its mission, according to a news release, is to "reverse the decades-long decline in the number of U.S. public companies by reducing the burden of going and staying public."

How federal shutdown is affecting Texas

The federal shutdown that began last Wednesday is stopping, for now, a chunk of the hundreds of billions of dollars that flow from Washington to Texas each year, the Houston Chronicle reported. Also affected are the more than 230,000 Texans who work for the federal government and will not receive a paycheck until the shutdown ends. That includes members of the military.

Texas is home to 14 military bases operated by more than 100,000 enlisted men and women, as well as large numbers of civilians working in support industries such as food service and construction.

Medicare and Social Security payments will continue, and military bases and other operations considered essential

to national security will continue to operate.

Air traffic controllers and employees of the Transportation Security Administration are considered essential employees and are required to continue working without a paycheck until the shutdown ends. Staffing shortages are expected at major Texas airports, as cash-strapped workers either stay home or look for new jobs.

In addition, most federal courts will be forced to close if the shutdown lasts very long, as their funding reserves run out. National parks likely will remain open, just without anyone staffing them.

Regulatory efficiency office is now open

The Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office is now open for business, under the office of Gov. Greg Abbott. Its mission is reviewing agency rules and procedures to cut red tape and to eliminate waste, fraud and unnecessary rules while increasing transparency for Texas taxpayers.

A news release states, "TREGO will guide state agencies in finding outdated and redundant regulations and create best practices to make agencies' rule making processes more efficient." It will also house a website that will assist Texans in understanding what rules need to be followed when starting a new career or business, as well as the Regulation Evaluation Portal to submit feedback or report potential government overregulation.

"The State of Texas operates at the speed of business, and this new Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office will ensure we continue to foster economic opportunity and protect individual liberty," Abbott said.

Hot and dry conditions expected in October

It might be autumn on paper, but for much of Texas, hot and dry weather is expected to continue through October. The return of the La Niña weather pattern makes it more likely much of the state will see dry weather and temperatures above average, the Austin Statesman reported.

La Niña forces the polar jet stream farther north, resulting in drier weather for the southern portion of the United States and colder, wetter weather in the upper Midwest and Northwest.

Meteorologist Anthony Franza with the San Antonio Express-News notes that the incoming La Niña likely will be relatively weak compared to previous years. So perhaps we will catch a break from the heat, even if briefly.

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**

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5832 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER; Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS; Northeast NEWS; North Forest NEWS; North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 20,000. Readership exceeds 50,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$35.00 per year. Out of county, \$45.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, 5832 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057.

News and Ad Phones.... **713-266-3444**
OFFICE.... **713-977-2555**
email: grafikstar@aol.com
Member Texas Press Association

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 9:

Texans look to keep good time rolling against 49ers: No. 4-ranked Aggies face big road test at No. 10 LSU

The NCAA football season enters Week 9, while the NFL season enters Week 8 with a lot of big games looming the week-end before Halloween.

On the college schedule, No. 4-ranked Texas A&M faces perhaps its biggest test of the season when it heads to Baton Rouge to take on No. 10-ranked LSU and its fierce defense. There's another big one in the SEC, as No. 4-ranked Mississippi visits No. 14-ranked Oklahoma, in a make or break game for both teams.

Also in the SEC, No. 21-ranked Texas hopes to keep its season alive when it visits a much-improved Mississippi State team on Saturday. Two weeks ago, Steve Sarkisian's team picked up a huge, and perhaps season-saving, win over Oklahoma with its 23-6 win. In that game, Eisenhower grad Ryan Niblett sealed the victory with a 75-yard punt return for a touchdown that put the game away for the 'Horns.

This is a game Texas can't take for granted. The Bulldogs won four of their first six games and are one of the most improved teams in the country after finishing 2-10 a year ago. Sark's team can't look past this one with No. 17 Vanderbilt coming up the following week, which will be UT's first home game in 42 days.

In the NFL, Week 9 has a host of interesting matchups, starting with Thursday Night Football as Minnesota visits the Los Angeles Chargers. The Texans are a San Francisco team that has been beset by injuries. Quarterback Brock Purdy has been hurt most of the season, but backup Mac Jones has done a good job of leading the offense in his absence. The 49ers lost their best defensive player when linebacker Fred Warner was lost for the season with a serious ankle injury two weeks ago during their 30-19 loss at Tampa Bay. The Texans need to win to keep pace with the Colts and Jags, who are ahead of them in the division standings.

The Cowboys face a big test when they travel to Denver to take on one of the league's best defenses. Two weeks ago, Dallas once again played to the level of its competition and lost at Carolina. The good news for Dallas is that it appears the NFC East might still be in their grasp considering the Eagles are floundering on offense. But if the Dallas defense does not improve, it really won't matter going forward.

There are a couple of intriguing prime time games this weekend as Green Bay visits Pittsburgh on Sunday Night Football as former Packers QB goes up against his former team. On Monday Night Football, Washington visits Kansas City as the Chiefs look to build momentum after an 0-2 start to the season. Two weeks ago, the Chiefs improved to 3-2 with a 30-17 win at home against Detroit.

The District 14-6A season is winding down with just two weeks to go after this weekend's games.

Before we check out this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 9-3 week upped the season record to 50-32 (61%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Texas A&M at LSU - After playing at home for what seemed like a month, the Aggies play their second straight road game and it's a tough one as Mike Elko's No. 4-ranked Aggies head to Baton Rouge to take on No. 10-ranked LSU in prime time (6:30 p.m.) on ABC. The Aggies will face a hostile and juiced up Tiger fan base that wants to see their team get going on offense. Brian Kelly's team has struggled on that side of the ball thus far, but they have a solid defense that has allowed just 11 points per game in their first six games. The Tiger defense will face perhaps its biggest test of the season when they take on an explosive Aggie offense, led by QB Marcel Reed (1,290 passing yards, 12 TDs/186 rushing yards, 3 TDs) and big-play receivers Mario Craver (32 receptions, 634 yards, 4 TDs) and KC Conception (28 receptions, 447 yards, 6 total TDs). A&M will be without its top rusher as Le'Veon Moss (389 yards, 6 TDs) will miss considerable time after sustaining an ankle injury two weeks ago against Florida. Rueben Owens III (327 yards, 1 TD) is a capable backup. LSU will look for a big game from QB Garrett



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

Nussmeier (1,411 yards, 9 TDs) and wideout Aaron Anderson (23 receptions, 305 yards). It would help if LSU could get running back Caden Durham (283 yards, 2 TDs) going. Look for the LSU defense to step up and make a play or two late to pull off the upset on Saturday night. My pick, LSU 24, Texas A&M 20

BYU at Iowa State - No. 15-ranked BYU heads to Ames, IA to face a desperate Iowa State team that would like nothing more than to upset the Cougars and spoil BYU's Big 12 title hopes. This could be a trap game for the Coogs, who played in-state rival Utah last week and have a huge matchup against No. 7-ranked Texas Tech in Lubbock next week. Iowa State entered the season as the favorite to win the conference, but back-to-back losses have dampened their changes. The Cyclones do have a solid QB in Rocco Becht (1,622 yards, 9 TDs), a solid runner in Abu Sama III (451 yards, 4 TDs) and a dependable wide receiver in Brett Eskildsen ((20 receptions, 334 yards, 2 TDs). BYU is led by dual-threat QB Bear Bachmeier (1,220 passing yards, 8 TDs/295 rushing yards, 7 TDs). The ISU defense will need to corral Bachmeier if they hope to pull off the upset. Something tells me, the Cyclones do just that come Saturday. My pick, Iowa State 30, BYU 27

Ole Miss at Oklahoma - No. 4-ranked Ole Miss heads to Norman to take on No. 14-ranked Oklahoma in a key SEC game for both teams. The Rebels will be playing their second straight tough road game after playing at Georgia on Oct. 25, while the Sooners are still smarting after their 23-6 loss to Texas two weeks ago in the Cotton Bowl. OU did get QB John Mateer (1,417 passing yards, 6 TDs/185 rushing yards, 5 TDs) back in that game after he missed a few weeks recovering from a broken right thumb. Mateer struggled, but should get his "A" game back in time for this game. Ole Miss is led by dual-threat QB Trinidad Chambliss (1,286 passing yards, 7 TDs/256 rushing yards, 7 TDs), running back Kewan Lacy (587 yards, 8 TDs), wide receiver Harrison Wallace III (17 receptions, 361 yards, 21.2 yards per catch, 2 TDs) and tight end Dae'Quan Wright (16 receptions, 359 yards, 22.4 yards per catch, 3 TDs). The Ole Miss offense will face one of the top defenses in the nation, so look for the OU defense to be the difference maker in this game. My pick, Oklahoma 23, Ole Miss 17

Texas at Mississippi St. - No. 21 Texas heads to Starkville, MS to face a much-improved MSU team. A year ago, the Bulldogs won all of two games, and have already doubled that figure with four wins in their first six games. The Bulldogs are tough at home and are led by former Baylor QB Blake Shapen (1,204 yards, 9 TDs), running back Fluff Bothwell (456 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Brenen Thompson (22 receptions, 378 yards, 4 TDs). Texas will need a big game from QB Arch Manning (1,317 passing yards, 12 TDs/194 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and wideouts Parker Livingstone (15 receptions, 308 yards, 3 TDs) and Ryan Wingo (22 receptions, 298 yards, 4 TDs). It will be up to the UT defense to come up with another big day as it did in the win over Oklahoma two weeks ago. After losing their first conference game at Florida three weeks ago, Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian knows his team can't afford any more slip ups if it hopes to remain in the SEC title chase. Look for the UT defense to step up big on Saturday and clamp down on the feisty Bulldogs. My pick, Texas 26, Mississippi State 13

NFL

Minnesota at Los Angeles Chargers - Week 8 kicks off with a pretty good one for the Thursday Night Football crew as the Vikings visit the Chargers on Amazon Prime. The Vikings should have starting QB J.J. McCarthy (301 yards, 2 TDs) back for this one after he missed

three games recovering from an ankle injury. He will need help from running back Jordan Mason (323 yards, 3 TDs) and star wide receiver Justin Jefferson (29 receptions, 449 yards, 1 TD) if they hope to pull off the upset over the AFC West leading Chargers. LA will look for a big night from QB Justin Herbert (1,493 passing yards, 10 TDs/155 rushing yards) and wide receivers Quentin Johnson (40 receptions, 377 yards, 4 TDs), Keenan Allen (33 receptions, 316 yards, 3 TDs) and Ladd McConkey (28 receptions, 313 yards, 2 TDs). Herbert and his receiving corps will need to carry the offense now that LA's top two rushers are out with injuries. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 26, Minnesota 23

San Francisco at Houston - The Texans host a beat up 49ers team at NRG Stadium on Sunday at noon. After losing three of their first five games, DeMeco Ryan's team knows it needs to take care of business at home. Look for the Texans defense, which is playing as well as any defensive unit in the league thus far, to get after SF QB Mac Jones (1,252 yards, 6TDs) early and often with hopes of forcing a turnover or two. The Houston defense must contain star running back Christian McCaffrey (326 rushing yards, 1 TD/46 receptions, 444 yards, 3 TD) from making big plays. If they do that, they should be OK on Sunday. SF lost its best defensive player as linebacker Fred Warner was lost for the season with a gruesome ankle injury two weeks ago in their 30-19 loss against Tampa Bay. Houston QB C.J. Stroud (1,076 yards, 8 TDs) will look to make plays downfield to speedy wideout Nico Collins (22 receptions, 312 yards, 3 TDs) and if that duo is successful, it could open up the running lanes for running back Nick Chubb (249 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Houston 27, San Francisco 18

Dallas at Denver - If the Cowboys can't win at Carolina, what chances do they have on the road once again, this time against one of the best defenses in the NFL, when they take on the Broncos in the Mile High City? I'd say their chances are slim and none. The Dallas offense has played well behind QB Dak Prescott (1,617 yards, 13 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (476 yards, 6 total TDs), wide receiver George Pickens (32 receptions, 525 yards, 6 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (44 receptions, 305 yards, 4 TDs). The Dallas offense could get a huge boost if star wide receiver CeeDee Lamb returns after missing the last three games with a high ankle sprain. While the offense has been OK, the defense has been abhorrent, so look for Denver QB Bo Nix (1,277 passing yards, 9 TDs/124 rushing yards, 1 TD) to come out and attack a suspect Cowboys secondary with strikes to wideout Courtland Sutton (27 receptions, 352 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Denver defense, which has allowed 15 points per game thus far, to slow down the Dallas offense and make it another rough day for Jerry's team. My pick, Denver 33, Dallas 20

Green Bay at Pittsburgh - A good one on Sunday Night Football has the Packers visiting the Steelers as Aaron Rodgers takes on his former team when GB visits Pittsburgh. Both teams have gotten off to solid starts. The GB offense, led by QB Jordan Love (1,259 yards, 9 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (359 yards, 6 TDs) and tight end Tucker Kraft (18 receptions, 268 yards, 3 TDs), will face a tough Steelers defense. Love sometimes struggles on the road and with T.J. Watt breathing down his neck on Sunday night, he might struggle once again. Rodgers (1,021 yards, 10 TDs) will look to attack Micah Parsons and the GB defense with strikes to big-play wide receiver DK Metcalf (19 receptions, 356 yards, 4 TDs) to soften them up and then turn to the running game to keep Love off the field. I think the Pittsburgh defense will be the difference maker in this one as the Steelers continue rolling. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, Green Bay 20

Washington at Kansas

History of the Highlands Public Library 1937



Highlands Library San Jacinto & Magnolia by Jill Rowlands

The Highlands Garden Club, then a forceful civic organization, launched a drive in 1936 for funds to build a library, with Mrs. Earl Barnett as president of the club. Public subscriptions and donations were made by residents. The fund reached the \$600 mark but that was not enough. The late Harry K. Johnson Sr., offered a lot for the building and promised to match dollar for dollar funds that were collected. He assumed responsibility and proceeded with construction of the building. J.L. Northrop of Houston drew the plans for the library at the corner of Magnolia and San Jacinto Streets.

Of English design, the Highlands Library was dedicated in April, 1937, with W.L. Pendergraft, then publisher of The Baytown Sun acting as master of ceremonies. (This is where the Highlands Chamber of Commerce office is now, in 1996.)

Ten books will remain on the library shelves, a gift from the Lynchburg Parent Teacher Association.

These include:

- "Twixt Twelve and Twenty"
- "Texas Rangers"
- "Handbook of Co-Ed teen activities"
- "How to be a successful Teenager"
- "Picture book of the Earth"
- "World of Pooh"
- "Gone with the Wind"
- "Dr. Zhivago"
- "Wonders of the human body"
- "Story of the Civil War"

In 1925 the M.L. Doss family moved to Highlands. Mr. Doss was later to serve on the Crosby School Board and the Equalization Board of the Goose Creek Independent School District.

Annie Thach Doss wrote about some of the history of the Elena-Highlands area around the 1920s.

Excerpts from her records were donated to the Stratford Library by M.L. Doss, D.L. Doss, Betty Doss Anthony and Evelyn Doss Hoffman. --Excerpt from the Book: Highlands-Lynchburg Area History by Vern E. Miller

Types of Items inside the Chamber Building:



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES THURSDAY, OCT. 16

Crosby 57, Fort Bend Kempner 0

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

Barbers Hill 25, Beaumont United 0
Richmond Randle 75, Baytown Lee 0
Lufkin 31, Baytown Sterling 21
Huntsville 42, Dayton 41

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

Summer Creek 73, Goose Creek Memorial 13

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES THURSDAY, OCT. 23

Baytown Lee vs. Santa Fe at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

Barbers Hill vs. Galveston Ball (Senior Night) at 7 p.m., at Eagle Stadium
Baytown Sterling, BYE WEEK
Crosby vs. La Porte at 7 p.m., at Cougar Stadium
Dayton at Splendora at 7 p.m., at Dale Martin Memorial Field in Splendora
Goose Creek Memorial vs. Channelview at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Huffman Hargrave vs. Livingston at 7:30 p.m., at Falcon Stadium in Huffman



City - Week 8 concludes with another Chiefs game in prime time as KC hosts Washington on Monday Night Football. After making the playoffs and reaching the NFC title game a year ago, the Commanders have split their first six games, as have the Chiefs. Washington QB Jayden Daniels (875 passing yards, 7 TDs/176 rushing yards) made a couple key mistakes two weeks ago in his team's 25-24 home loss against the Bears.

His fumble late in the game set Chicago up for the winning points. He will need help from running back Jacory Croskey-Merritt (374 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Deebo Samuel (34 receptions, 315 yards, 3 TDs) if they hope to pull off the upset. KC appears to be getting its act together after losing three of its first five games. Two weeks ago, QB Patrick Mahomes (1,514 passing yards, 11 TDs/222 rushing yards, 4 TDs) had a big

night and led the Chiefs to a convincing 30-17 win over a very good Detroit team. Mahomes will once again look to make plays to dependable tight end Travis Kelce (28 receptions, 321 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Marquise Brown (30 receptions, 302 yards, 3 TDs). Mahomes will also get back a big offensive weapon as productive wide receiver Rashee Rice returns after serving a six-game suspension. My pick, Kansas City 31, Washington 20

Burn Ban enacted for Harris County

HARRIS COUNTY - The Harris County Commissioners Court approved a burn ban for unincorporated Harris County due to ongoing dry weather and heightened fire danger. Fire weather conditions arise when high temperatures, low humidity, strong winds, and dry vegetation combine, creating an environment where wildfires can ignite easily and spread quickly. These conditions pose serious risks to our communities, wildlife, and county resources. Currently, 151 counties across Texas, including our neighbors in Fort Bend County, Waller County, Montgomery County, Chambers County, and Liberty County, are also under burn bans in efforts to reduce wild-fire threats

What does a burn ban mean?

The burn ban prohibits all outdoor burning unless it occurs within an enclosure that contains all flames and sparks.

What is allowed:
 --Outdoor burning authorized by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
 --Approved ceremonial fires.

--Non-commercial cooking like backyard cookouts and barbecues.

--Additionally, welding and other "hot work" can be carried out as long as they comply with county fire code regulations.

The burn ban is being issued amid the Diwali fireworks sale season that began Monday, October 13, 2025.



Fireworks Sales are permitted through Diwali, but not these Rockets.

While fireworks sales will continue until midnight of October 23, 2025, sales will be subject to specific restrictions to reduce fire risk. In accordance with state legislation and the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), which

measures forest fire danger, the commissioner's court has approved a ban on the sale of certain fireworks. Specifically, vendors are prohibited from selling skyrockets with sticks and missiles with fins.

The HCFMO strongly advises leaving fireworks displays to the professionals. If you choose to use consumer fireworks, please follow these safety guidelines:

--Read all caution labels carefully.

--Keep a water source nearby in case of emergencies.

--Thoroughly soak used fireworks before disposing of them in the trash.

Violation of the burn ban is a Class "C" misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In addition, any person who starts a fire that causes

damage to property without the owner's consent may be charged with Reckless Damage or Destruction, a Class "C" misdemeanor, or arson, a felony.

To protect our community and help prevent wildfires, please comply with the burn ban currently in effect. During dry conditions, certain outdoor activities can significantly increase the risk of large fires. Always exercise caution when handling anything that generates heat or sparks and take extra precautions during periods of particularly dry weather. Additionally, here are some important safety tips to follow:

--Use precautions when outdoor cooking:

--Avoid placing the grill on dry grass or other plant ma-

terial. A stray spark could easily start a fire.

--If using a charcoal starter fluid, never add it after the grill has started. The liquid could spark a flare-up and cause an injury.

--When finished with charcoal grilling, let the coals completely cool and dispose of them in a metal container, and soak in water.

--Properly discard cigarettes and other smoking materials

--Never throw a lit cigarette or cigarette butt out the window of a vehicle. It could land on dry grass or be blown into dry vegetation and start a fire.

--Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants, or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves, or other things that could ignite easily.

--Beware of threats related to lawn maintenance and vehicles in dry conditions.

--Lawnmowers are designed to mow lawns, not weeds or dry grass. Metal blades striking rocks can create sparks and start fires.

--Avoid driving through tall grass and never park your vehicle on dry grass or leaves. Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires.

--Adjust the safety chains on your trailers to ensure they don't drag and create sparks that can cause roadside fires.

All fires start small. If you see an unattended fire, call 9-1-1 and notify your local fire department immediately. In dry conditions, a small fire can spread quickly and threaten people and property.

To learn more about the burn ban, how to prepare your home for a wildfire, and more dry weather safety, visit us at [HCFMO - Wildfire & Burn Bans](https://www.hcfmo.org/wildfire-burn-bans).

The mission of the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office is to safeguard the lives and property of the residents in Harris County through effective fire prevention, fire investigation, education, emergency response, and emergency management.



Sikes Disposal Pits Superfund Site Public Notice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6

October 2025

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 will be conducting the seventh five-year review of remedy implementation and performance at the Sikes Disposal Pits Superfund site (Site) in Crosby, Texas. From about 1961 to 1967, an illegal dump operated on-site. Current site uses include recreational businesses involving off-roading, all-terrain vehicles, fishing, a campground and a boat launch. The site-wide remedy includes excavation and on-site incineration of contaminated soil and sludge, on-site disposal of incineration ash, backfill and reseeding of excavated areas, stormwater controls, ongoing groundwater monitoring and institutional controls. The five-year review will determine if the remedies are still protective of human health and the environment. The five-year review is scheduled for completion in September 2026.

The report will be made available to the public at the following local information repository:

Harris County Public Library – Crosby Branch Library
135 Hare Road
Crosby, Texas 77532
(832) 927-7790

Site status updates are available on the Internet at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/sikes>

All media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Press Office at (214) 665-2200

For more information about the Site, contact:

Chandani Rana/Remedial Project Manager
(214) 665-2747
or by email at rana.chandani@epa.gov

Jason McKinney/Community Involvement Coordinator
(214) 665-8132
or 1-800-887-6063 (toll-free)
or by email at mckinney.jason@epa.gov

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 7th 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 Carley
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. Bids will be opened 11/04/2025 at 2:00 p.m. At the Barbers Hill Technology Integration Center.

38-27



NO FEES. NO SURPRISES.
Just One Incredible Offer at One Incredible Price.

Carter~Conley Funeral Home

13701 Corpus Christi St.
Houston, TX 77015

(713) 455-5100

*Funerals *Cremations *Pre-Arrangements

Family Owned and Operated
Since 1992

www.CarterConleyFH.com

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money



281-428-1187
1-800-345-8471
Sales & Repair Service
Baytown, Texas
John Henderson
628 Cedar Bayou Rd.

CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS
FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS
713-702-3200
JOHNNY GAENE OWNER-INSPECTOR
911 S. MAIN HIGHLANDS TX 77562

Graphics Unlimited, Inc.
CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST
Signs & Banners
281-462-1200
www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net
213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY
HIGHLANDS
281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.
NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

HILL MATERIALS
119 Listi Ln, Highlands hillmaterials.com
WE DELIVER TO YOU
(281) 843-5000
residential • commercial • industrial

FILL DIRT
BANK SAND
ROADBASE
LIMESTONE
713-266-3444

SMALL ADS BRING **BIG** RESULTS
Ask about our Business Directory Package
13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260
Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package
Photo + Story + Web for \$260
713-266-3444

Star  Courier
Your Hometown Newspaper
News tips and Ad Inquiries:
713-266-3444

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details



Jay Lyrurgo, left, and Cillian Murphy star in "Steve."

"Steve"

"STEVE" (R) — Since starring in the critical and box-office success of "Openheimer," Cillian Murphy seems to be enjoying lead roles in smaller films like "Small Things Like These" and this new drama film, which co-stars Jay Lyrurgo ("Titans"). Murphy plays the titular character, the headteacher at a reform college tailored to boys who are experiencing issues behaviorally and societally. One particular boy, Shy (Lyrurgo), is having a hard time with acting out violently and is unsure as to where he's headed in life. Even though headteacher Steve also has demons he's working through, he refuses to let Shy continue to live his life alone without the proper help. Out now. (Netflix)

thriller is led by Cooper Hoffman ("Saturday Night") and David Jonsson ("Industry"). Set during an alternate reality of the 1970s where a totalitarian regime reigns over the United States, the film follows an annual voluntary competition consisting of 50 boys who must walk nonstop at a pace of 3 miles per hour or face the consequences of death. "The Walk" only ends when there's one boy left, who then receives a cash prize and a wish of his choice. Although they're driven by an insatiable hunger to improve their families' lives, the boys severely underestimate the trauma they're about to put themselves through and whether their choice was ultimately worth the long walk. Judy Greer and Mark Hamill co-star in the film, which is available now to rent at home. (Apple TV+)

"THE LONG WALK" (R) — Based on the 1979 novel written by Stephen King ("It"), this dystopian

"LAZARUS" (TV-MA) — "The Hunger Games" Sam Claflin stars in this new horror series alongside "Pirates of the Caribbean's" Bill Nighy. Only six episodes long, this series picks up as forensic psychologist Laz receives news of his father's (Nighy) death. Although his father's death was ruled to be a suicide, Laz finds certain similarities between this case and the death of his sister 25 years ago. Simultaneously, Laz also begins to experience weird and paranormal instances where his father visits him and speaks to him. Left with no choice but to either succumb to insanity or solve the case, Laz is determined to find out whether his father was murdered. All six episodes premiere Oct. 22. (Amazon Prime Video)

"CHAD POWERS" (TV-MA) — Glen Powell's ("Twisters") latest sports-comedy series not only stars the 36-year-old actor, but it was also created by Powell based on the "Eli's Places" segment hosted by former quarterback Eli Manning. In the series, Powell plays Russ Holiday, a washed-up former football star whose career tanked after a championship game gone wrong. Russ has the bright idea to change up his identity so that he can continue to play football, so with the help of prosthetics, a wig, and some (bad?) acting, Russ transforms into Chad Powers. "Chad" then gets signed on to play for a small college that desperately needs some star power. With the whole football program relying on his success, the stakes are greater than ever for Russ/Chad to pull through — and not get caught while doing so. Four episodes of the six-episode season are out now to stream. (Hulu)

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

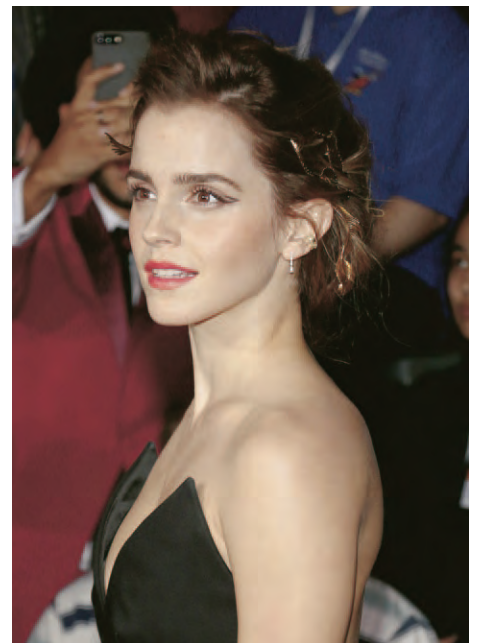
HOLLYWOOD — Spider-Man Tom Holland suffered a concussion doing a stunt-gone-wrong on the set of "Spider-Man: Brand New Day," which caused filming to shut down for a week. His lady, Zendaya, rushed to his side. "Spider-Man: No Way Home" (2021) was Sony's highest-grossing film of all time — a \$1.92 billion take at the box office.

Have you ever wanted to own an actual Muppet? The Jim Henson Company's having a historic auction where puppets from "Fraggle Rock," "Labyrinth," and "The Dark Crystal" will be on the auction block (along with over 400 items). The Jim Henson Company's 70th Anniversary Auction is timed for Nov. 25 and will be held at their Hollywood headquarters, which was once the studio where Charlie Chaplin made movies and Herb Alpert made records.

There's also a new Muppet show in the works that is being produced by Seth Rogen. However, before you get excited, you should know that some of the items (such as Naia, the Drenchen Gelfling full-body puppet used in "The Dark Crystal") are estimated to be at \$15,000-\$25,000. You can preorder the auction catalog that features hundreds of color illustrations and behind-the-scene stories online at JuliensAuctions.com. Good luck!

The task of finding the next 007 has fallen to Denis Villeneuve, who'll start his search for James Bond next year after he completes production of "Dune: Part Three." They're seeking a "fresh face" to take on "Bond 26." He'll definitely be male, and he must hail from the British Isles. Their plan is to go back to the original Ian Fleming novels, which means they're looking for a young Sean Connery!

Ever wondered what happened to Emma Watson, who starred as Hermione Granger in eight "Harry Potter" films from 2001-2011 — as well as major films such as "Noah" (2014), "Beau-



Emma Watson (of "Harry Potter" fame)

ty and the Beast" (2017), and "Little Women" (2019) — then disappeared for six years?

She's offered that "having the weight of a public persona" is burdensome, which is why she wasn't in a rush to return to filmmaking. She admitted that she is "the happiest and healthiest I've ever been."

She explained further, "The bigger component than the actual job itself is the promotion and selling of that piece of work. ... I do not miss selling things. I found that to be quite soul-destroying. But I do very much miss using my skillset, and I very much miss the art. ... The most important thing ... is your home, friends and family. ... I needed to go and do some construction work." She also stated that she "felt a bit caged in by it."

Sounds like "Noah" star Watson, at 35, needs another long ocean voyage during this arc in her career!

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip with a 'Find at least six differences' puzzle.

October 20, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword grid with Across and Down clues.

Answers for King Crossword clues.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions and answers.



CONVENIENT, ADVANCED MAMMOGRAMS FOR YOU

Taking care of your breast health is important. And early detection starts with your annual mammogram. That's why Houston Methodist Breast Care Centers offer:

- Innovative imaging technology
- Board-certified breast radiologists
- Online scheduling available when you are
- 13 convenient locations across Houston

Using cutting-edge breast screenings, such as 3D mammograms, to detect even the smallest lumps with accuracy, our breast experts have decades of experience and are all here to support you.

That's the difference between practicing medicine and leading it. **For you.**



**Pearland offers screening mammograms only*

HOUSTON
Methodist[®]
LEADING MEDICINE

houstonmethodist.org/mammogram
346.356.PINK (7465)