



2025 EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT
Jackie Medcalf, Founder and Chief Executive
Officer of the Texas Health and Environment
Alliance (THEA) See Story Below.

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Jackie Medcalf Receives the UHCL's 2025 Early Achievement Award

HOUSTON - What began as a classroom discovery at the University of Houston-Clear Lake has evolved into a statewide movement for environmental justice. Jackie Medcalf, recipient of UHCL's 2025 Early Achievement Award, turned a deeply personal tragedy into a lifelong mission to protect public health and empower communities affected by pollution.

Jackie's path to environmental advocacy began during her undergraduate studies at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a concentration in Geology. While studying hydrogeology, she uncovered a devastating truth: the water her family relied on was



Jackie Medcalf on stage (in black dress) at UHCL Awards Ceremony

contaminated, likely the cause of her father's cancer, her own neurological and reproductive issues, and their animals' illnesses. That discovery changed the course of her life and

launched her into a career rooted in science, public service, and community engagement.

In 2015, Jackie founded THEA to support communities affected by pollution

and to help ensure they have a voice in environmental decision-making. Under her leadership, THEA has mobilized more than 60,000 people across Houston and the Gulf

Coast region to advocate for the cleanup of some of the state's most dangerous Superfund sites, including the Jones Road Ground Water Plume and the San Jacinto River Waste Pits - now recognized as a state-confirmed cancer cluster.

Jackie's work centers on environmental health literacy—breaking down complex science and regulatory processes so that communities can participate in decisions that affect their health and future. Through strategic partnerships with academic institutions, government agencies, and grassroots organizations, she ensures residents have the data, tools, and representation they need to make informed decisions and hold polluters accountable. In addition to collaborating

on community-engaged research, Jackie advises academic projects and currently serves on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's expert committee on the State of the Science and the Future of Cumulative Impact Assessment.

Recognized for her leadership and impact, Jackie has received numerous honors, including the Houston Business Journal's "40 Under 40" and the Champion for Change award from environmental pioneer Lois Gibbs.

From classroom discovery to statewide advocacy, Jackie's work exemplifies how science, lived experience, and persistence can drive meaningful change. Continued. See UHCL AWARD, Page 2

GOOSE CREEK SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

A Giant Decade: Preparing Students for What's Ahead

When my family and I arrived in Baytown in the spring of 2013, our community had just approved a bond initiative that would bring new schools to meet the growing population's needs. Families were moving here, drawn by expanding opportunities in our local plants and industry. At that time, Baytown's population was around 70,000, and Goose Creek CISD served about 20,000 students.

Today, our community has surpassed 100,000 residents, and Goose Creek now serves approximately 24,000 students. This growth reflects the tremendous vitality of our region. Upon joining the team, I spent time exploring our schools and surrounding industries, quickly gaining a deep ap-

preciation for how integral our petrochemical partners are to both our local and global economy.

As we grew, our Board of Trustees reaffirmed our purpose and charted a clear direction for the future. Together, we established a *Vision* to empower every student with the knowledge and skills to succeed in a global community and a *Mission* centered on "Developing the Whole Child". Guided by these principles, we set out to engage students through learning that connects directly to their interests and future goals. From this belief, our Career Academies were born, small learning communities within our high schools that allow students to explore pathways aligned with their passions



Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Randal O'Brien

and potential careers.

We began with three Career Academies across our traditional high schools and have since expanded to ten academies across four campuses, each offering multiple pathways. These academies maintain high standards

and high expectations, offering rigorous coursework that includes Advanced Placement, dual credit, and hands-on, career-oriented experiences.

Today's Career Academy options include Advanced Automotive, Agriculture Science (Veterinary), Future Educators, Culinary Arts, Global Business, Manufacturing and Industrial Maintenance, Health Science, Information Technology, STEM, and Digital Communications. Each pathway prepares students to enter college or the workforce with confidence, critical thinking skills, and a desire to contribute to society.

Currently, our eighth-grade students are exploring these opportunities as they select their high

school courses and career pathways for next year. This is one of the most exciting seasons in our district as students begin to envision their future and take ownership of their educational journey. Whether their interests lead them toward health science, technology, education, or trades, they have the freedom to choose a path that reflects who they are and who they aspire to become.

The results of this vision have been remarkable. Dual credit enrollment has grown dramatically through partnerships with Lee College and other institutions. More than one-quarter of our students now earn college credit before graduating, up from less than ten percent a decade ago. Research from

Columbia University has even recognized Goose Creek CISD as a model district for providing higher education opportunities to students.

The past decade has not been without challenges, yet our students stand ready to excel in life. By committing to the whole child, removing barriers, and creating pathways of opportunity, we have prepared them to thrive.

I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving this incredible community and witnessing the remarkable progress we have made together. It has truly been an honor to sit in the driver's seat these past ten years, watching our Giants grow, dream, and achieve.

Thank you all for allowing me to be part of your journey.

Student Growth May Push Sheldon, Crosby to 6A Status

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

On Snapshot Friday, high schools across Texas submitted their official enrollment figures, a crucial step in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) realignment and reclassification process for the 2026 and 2027 football seasons. Each school's average daily attendance, reported by November 7, will determine its classification for the next two years, shaping the competitive landscape of Texas high school football.

Snapshot Day, typically held on October 31, marks the deadline for schools to finalize and submit their numbers. These figures are more than just statis-

tics—they set the foundation for district assignments and playoff eligibility. After Thanksgiving, UIL will release the classification and division cutoffs, letting schools know where they stand. The current cutoff between 6A and 5A divisions sits at 2,275 students, reflecting a statewide trend of stagnating or declining enrollment and fewer new schools opening compared to a decade ago.

In Aldine, the district has lost approximately 14,000 students since the pandemic. According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), in 2015, the district reported its highest enrollment at 70,417 and in 2024, that number had dwindled to 56,419.

The drop forced the closure of nine elementary schools in the last two years: three in 2024, and a painful six in 2025.

Current school board trustee Steve Mead, who is running again this fall to retain his seat, said it was unsustainable to keep the buildings, some of which had a student population of 300, but were built for 1,000.

He blamed it partly on fewer children being born and a transient population always moving in and out of the district.

"We don't have enough single-family homes in this district to support families," he said recently at a

Continued. See STUDENT GROWTH MAY PUSH SHELDON, Page 2

Internal Poll: Cain Leads GOP Primary for Texas 9th District



Briscoe Cain

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A recent poll conducted by McLaughlin & Associates reveals that Briscoe Cain is leading the race for the newly created Texas Congressional 9th District, positioning himself as the clear favorite among Republican primary voters.

The survey, carried out from October 20-23, 2025, sampled 400 likely Repub-



Alexandra del Moral Mealer

lican primary voters in TX-9 and reported a margin of error of +/- 4.9%. Among the key findings, Briscoe Cain boasts an unrivaled Name I.D. of 76.3% and a Favorability rating of 47.8%, far ahead of his closest competitor, Alexandra del Moral Mealer, who trails with 52.9% Name I.D. and just 27.2% Favorability.

If the vote was held today, according to the poll,



Dan Mims

the number of Undecided voters at 40% leads all the candidates suggesting many have not made up their mind. Of the candidates in the race, the poll lists the candidates in this order: Briscoe Cain 37%, Alexandra del Moral Mealer 16%, Dan Mims 3%, Dwayne Stovall 3%, Alexandria Butler 1%, Peter

Continued. See INTERNAL POLL; CAIN LEADS GOP, Page 2

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Goose Creek CISD Fine Arts Showcases Student Talent at Annual Friday Night Lights Experience



Pictured, from left, Sterling High School, Lee High School, and Goose Creek Memorial High School marching band and drill teams. (Photo by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

Story by: Nancy Bonds, GCCISD Director of Communications

Goose Creek CISD's Fine Arts programs came together in an exciting showcase during the annual Friday Night Lights Experience, held at Stallworth Stadium. The district-wide Fine Arts tradition gives eighth-grade band and dance students a first-hand look at what it is like to perform in a high school setting and experience the excitement of game day.

What began years ago

as a marching expo has evolved into a full-scale Fine Arts celebration featuring band and dance components from Goose Creek Memorial High School, Lee High School, and Sterling High School. The addition of middle school dance students allows them to connect directly with high school drill team members, encouraging continued participation in Fine Arts programs.

"The goal of this event is to provide an opportunity for students to experience what the Fine

Arts Department offers during a Friday Night Football game," said Dr. Ray Lavan, GCCISD Director of Fine Arts. "Many of our students do not get to see our bands and drill teams in action, so we wanted to curate an experience especially for them. It is a chance to inspire them to continue their journey in band and dance."

This year's event brought together all Goose Creek CISD high school marching bands and drill teams, creating an unforgettable day of music and movement.

Eighth-grade students from across the district filled the stands to cheer for their future as high school performers.

"This event also gives all three high school bands and drill teams a chance to see and interact with each other and celebrate a successful season," Dr. Lavan said. "The group photos we take together are powerful images that show our Fine Arts Department united and strong."

Each year, the event continues to grow in scope and sophistication, with new opportunities

for student collaboration. This year's experience featured an impressive behind-the-scenes factor led by students from the Digital Communications Academy at Stuart Career Tech High School.

These students operated the new scoreboard and remote cameras and served in a variety of crew positions, including camera operator, video operator, technical director, camera assistant, and replay operator. The opportunity to contribute to a real-world production environment is vital to the Digital Communi-

cations Academy, providing authentic, hands-on experience that prepares them for future careers in media and production.

The Friday Night Lights Experience not only gives future high school performers a taste of the excitement under the lights but also celebrates the dedication and collaboration that define Goose Creek CISD's Fine Arts programs. It's a powerful reminder of how our district helps every student discover their passion and potential through the arts.

Cain Leading GOP primary,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Van Emmert 1%, and Dedrick Wilmer 0%.

"It is no surprise that the people of the new TX-9 know Briscoe Cain, love what he stands for, trust him to advance Trump's agenda, and are overwhelmingly supportive," Griffin said.

When asked who they would vote for if the election were held today, over 37% of respondents chose Briscoe Cain, with a notable 32.8% indicating "hard" support. Del Moral Mealer lagged behind at 15.7%, while all other candidates received 3% or less. After extensive messaging, Cain's ballot advantage jumped by 25.2%, while del Moral Mealer's support dropped by 35%. In a follow-up ballot test, Cain secured 62.4% support, compared to del Moral

Mealer's 10.2%.

"Briscoe Cain's pro-Trump, America First, conservative record has secured his solid base of support which can only grow and secure a win for Congress," said John McLaughlin, CEO of McLaughlin & Associates. "President Trump's endorsement of Briscoe Cain would seal the victory." Cain has yet to receive that endorsement in the congressional race, however, he did get that endorsement for his re-election to his state house seat.

"No one on my campaign team is worried about that poll," said Channelview resident and candidate for the 9th District Dan Mims said. Mims entered the race later than Cain and Mealer but isn't

the least bit discouraged.

"We're going to continue with our message which is resonating with voters and every call I make, we gain more traffic. Every time I'm out in the public, we earn more support," Mims said he intended to stay the course.

Mealer did not respond to the polls results before press time.

While the polling might seem early, McLaughlin said that wasn't the case.

McLaughlin confirmed the polling included both Harris and Liberty counties.

The election is still months away, in March of 2026, but candidates are already crisscrossing the area meeting voters and sharing their message.

Student Growth may push Sheldon, Crosby to 6A status,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

candidate debate forum.

In Barbers Hill, just outside of the Harris County border in Chambers County, the reverse trend is happening. Ten years ago, the district reported a population of 4,903. Since then, the district has grown to a whopping 7,875. They have moved from a small 4A school to a large 5A.

Channelview ISD grew in 2014 from 9,133 to 9,727 at its peak in 2019 and back down to 9,335 in 2024.

Cleveland ISD has a new development that's bringing mind numbing growth from a small 3A district to a large 6A school district in those 10 years. They are one of the fastest growing districts in the state and nation with more than 300 percent growth. In 2014, the district boasted a modest 3,847 and now have a door-bulging 12,513

in 2024.

Crosby ISD has had modest growth over the last decade growing from 5,451 in 2014 to 7,046 in 2024, an increase of almost 1,600 in 10 years. The district, however, is primed to receive a considerable boost over the next decade with the construction of thousands of new homes in the next decade.

Dayton ISD has had only modest growth, give or take a few hundred students. Galena Park has lost about 1,900 students over the last decade following its peak enrollment in 2016 of 22,784.

Goose Creek Consolidated ISD has flipped between growth and loss with their largest enrollment reaching 24,431 in 2022 and down a few of hundred in 2024 at 24,032.

Sheldon ISD has added approximately 3,000 new students in the last decade

moving the school into the 6A division. Growth will continue in the district, but experts say at a more modest pace in the next decade.

While some schools may choose to compete in a higher division, such moves are rare. This year, only six new schools are joining the realignment cycle, a significant drop from the 15 typically added in previous years.

As districts await the official announcements in February, Snapshot Friday remains a pivotal moment for Texas high school athletics, setting the course for future competition and community pride.

Districts have until November 7 to report their numbers to UIL. The new classification cutoff numbers for each classification should be announced in early December.

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Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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
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

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Stuart Career Tech HS Students Win Prestigious Lone Star Emmy Student Production Awards

Story by: Nancy Bonds,
GCCISD Director of Communications

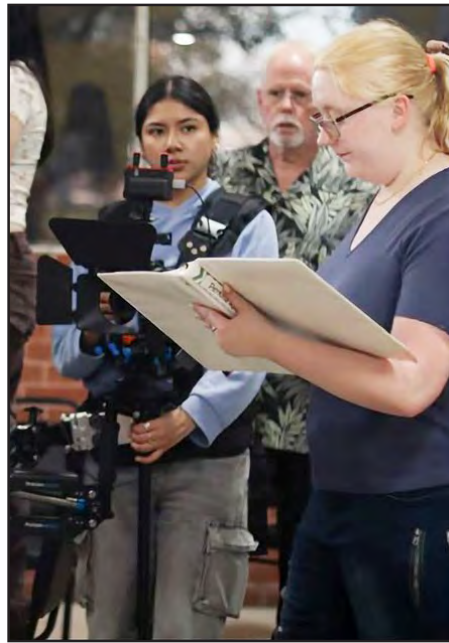
Stuart Career Tech High School is proud to announce that two of its talented Digital Communications students have been named winners in the 2025 National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) Lone Star Chapter Student Production Awards, recognizing outstanding achievement in student filmmaking across Texas.

The Lone Star Chapter, one of the largest in the nation, honors excellence in television and media across all 19 Texas markets. Nominations and awards in the Student Production Awards place Stuart's students among the top emerging filmmakers and content creators in the state.

NOMINEES:
NON-FICTION – LONG FORM

Graciella Rodriguez, Producer/Director

For her documentary on the Baytown Sun, "What The Sun Brings"



Pictured, from left, Maria Tenorio, Richard Morris, and Hailey Walter on set.

FICTION – LONG FORM

Ireland Eaton, Producer/Director

For her film "Solitary"

WINNERS:
FICTION – LONG FORM

Hailey Walter, Producer/Director

For her film "Secrecy"

Hailey is continuing her



Maria Tenorio filming at Stallworth Stadium.

education at the University of Texas Film School, named the #1 public film school in the U.S. by The Hollywood Reporter in 2025!

PHOTOGRAPHER

Maria Tenorio, Photographer/Cinematographer

For her work on the film "Solitary"

Maria is continuing her education at the University

of Houston and is thriving as an independent photographer.

Winning high school entries from the Lone Star Chapter go on to compete in the National Student Production Awards, with winners announced Friday, November 21, 2025, during a virtual ceremony streamed on The Emmys App (#NATASSPA).

"Our program focuses on giving students real-world production experience, and these nominations and awards show that their hard work and dedication are paying off," said Richard Morris, Digital Communications instructor at Stuart Career Tech High School. "Each of these projects reflects not only technical skill, but also the unique voices of young filmmakers who are learning to tell stories."

"These nominations are proof that creativity, talent, and hard work pay off in a big way," said Shonna Prentice, principal of Stuart Career Tech High School. "We are so proud of our Titans. At Stuart, we prepare, empower, and propel our students toward a successful future where every student inherits strength, knowledge, and legacy."

Congratulations to Graciella Rodriguez, Ireland Eaton, Hailey Walter, and Maria Tenorio for representing Stuart Career Tech High School and Goose Creek CISD with creativity and Giant pride.

Goose Creek Memorial HS Welcomes Italian Singer Teo Bok for Inspiring "Come Musica" Concert

Story by: Manuela S. Langlois,
GCM Italian Instructor

On October 8, 2025, the Goose Creek Memorial High School Italian Program had the distinguished honor of hosting Italian singer Teo Bok in a special concert presented by the Consulate General of Italy in Houston, and the Italian Cultural Institute of Miami. This event was part of Teo Bok's international tour "Come Musica - The Power of Music in Education," celebrating the Week of the Italian Language in the World.

Goose Creek Memorial was one of only two high

schools in Southeast Texas selected to welcome this extraordinary performer. Scheduled during the week of "Inside Out," organized by the school counselors for Emotional Awareness Week, Teo Bok's concert went beyond showcasing his musical talent. He addressed important themes such as bullying, abandonment, self-respect, and respect for women. Through heartfelt songs and personal reflections, Teo Bok inspired students to confront life's challenges with courage and resilience.

The event also underscored music's power as an educational tool—one that



Teo Bok, Italian Singer and Musician

ignites creativity while fostering empathy and cultural understanding. The students connected deeply with both his music and message, sending the sing-



Pictured, from left, Manuela Solinas Langlois, GCM Italian Instructor, Kelley Start, GCM Principal, Teo Bok, Italian Singer and Musician, Eduardo Bossone, Attaché-Consulate General of Italy-Houston, and Eliana Bresolin, Manager.

er heartfelt notes afterward to express their appreciation.

For those interested in learning more about Teo Bok and his work, be sure

to check out his social media channels @teo.bok for updates on his music and upcoming performances. (Photos by: Manuela S. Langlois)

Stork Vision Baytown Brings Unique Ultrasound Experience & Celebrates its 20th anniversary

BAYTOWN, TEXAS — The Baytown Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome Stork Vision Baytown, a new 2D, 3D, and 4D maternity ultrasound imaging center, to the Baytown community. Stork Vision Baytown is part of the nationally recognized Stork Vision franchise, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this October.

The new location offers families a unique opportunity to "peek into their baby's world" through 2D, 3D, and 4D maternity ultrasound imaging in a welcoming setting. The studio provides high-quality, non-diagnostic ultrasounds that allow families to bond with their baby before birth. It is the first and only Stork Vision location in the Baytown area, serving not only Baytown families but also the entire east side of Houston to Beaumont, communities across the Fred Hartman Bridge, and north to



Stork Vision Baytown Owner: Kenny Martinez, Director of Operations: Tammy Moyers Martinez, Sonographers: Sara Adams, Mindy Cedillo, Casey Dill and Natalia Ramos, Mayor Charles Johnson, Baytown Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and staff along with their family. Not pictured: Mayor Charles Johnson

Humble.

"I am glad Stork Vision has chosen Baytown, more importantly, the Alexander corridor. Having new businesses such as Stork Vision will bring

foot traffic to the area, which will encourage economic development in the area," said Mayor Charles Johnson. The Baytown location is locally owned and operated by Ken-

ny Martinez, a lifelong Baytownian with deep roots in the community. The idea for bringing Stork Vision to Baytown was born when he attended his grandson's

ultrasound appointment and experienced firsthand the joy and wonder of seeing his grandchild before birth. That moment sparked a passion to bring the same experience to other families in the area.

"We're excited to bring something truly special to Baytown," said Kenny Martinez. "When I saw my grandson's ultrasound, it was such an emotional and unforgettable experience. I knew right then that I wanted to help other families share that same kind of joy right here in our hometown."

In celebration of the Stork Vision franchise's 20th anniversary, Stork Vision Baytown has been offering special promotions throughout the month of October.

For more information, follow Stork Vision on Facebook or visit their website at <https://storkvision.com/ultrasound/baytown-tx-ultrasound.html>.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING



Extending the ACA Subsidies

Over the last week, the decision on whether to extend the enhanced ACA subsidies has increasingly become the defining issue of the shutdown.

Unpacking the numbers-

From the outset, the Affordable Care Act subsidized the purchase of health insurance by some lower-income Americans on the health insurance exchanges.

For those below that ceiling, the government would pick up the cost of the insurance that was above a percentage of the person's income.

During the pandemic, Congress expanded the eligibility criteria for the subsidy by eliminating the income limits. But the expansion was only temporary, scheduled to expire at the end of 2025.

The expansion eliminated the 400% of the FPL limit. However, the benefit was capped by requiring that individuals must pay 8.5% of their income toward the premium before they could receive any subsidy.

The net effect of the expanded subsidy rules is to reduce the subsidy as a person's income increases. For most people, the subsidy goes to zero at an income of about \$120,000 for an individual and about \$240,000 for a couple.

Unpacking the politics-

The expansion was originally on a straight party vote. Not a single Republican voted for the original extension.

A poll by the KFF (fka the Kaiser Family Foundation) found that 77% of Americans want Congress to extend the subsidies.

Earlier this year, KFF conducted a detailed analysis of the effect of the expiring subsidies by Congressional district. Those most impacted are skewed toward districts currently held by Republicans.

This is an interactive map that KFF prepared. This image shows the average premium increase, but you can click on it to get more detailed information.

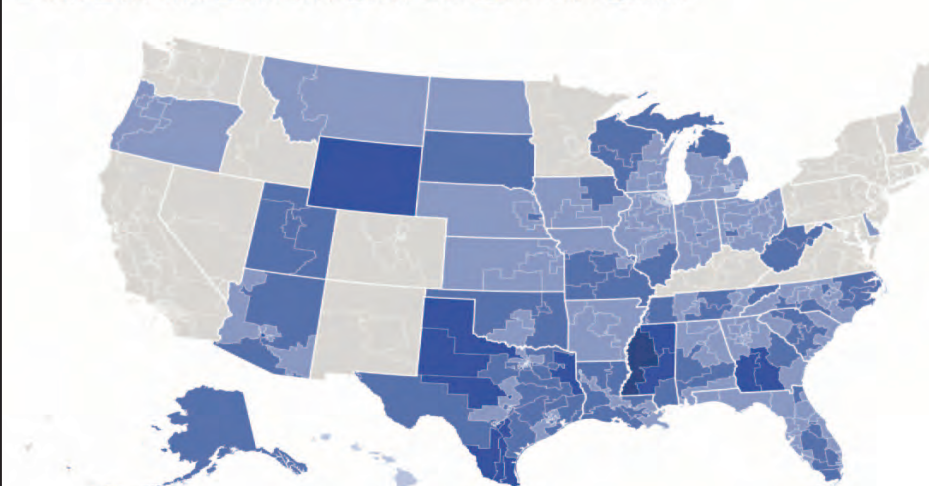
We are currently entering the ACA reenrollment period, and many Americans are learning for the first time how much their premiums may go up.

A compromise on subsidies may be the off-ramp to end the shutdown. President Trump has hinted that he might be open to a deal on healthcare.

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, 5832 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com.

Premium Payments for Subsidized Enrollees Will Increase Nationwide if Enhanced ACA Subsidies Expire

Percent Increase in Average Monthly Premium Payments Without Enhanced Subsidies, 2024



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Shutdown Could Halt SNAP for 3.5 M Texans

The continuing federal shutdown means food benefits provided to 3.5 million Texans could be cut off in November, The Texas Tribune reported.

"SNAP has funding available for benefits and operations through the month of October," according to a letter written by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service to state agencies.

More than \$614 million is distributed monthly in Texas to recipients.

Currently, other assistance programs such as Medicaid and the Children Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, are not affected by the shutdown, which is in its fourth week.

OIL PRICES AT LOWEST LEVEL SINCE PANDEMIC

Oil prices have dropped to their lowest level since early 2021, the Texas Standard reported. In an interview with Matt Smith, lead energy analyst at Kpler, he said strong supply is driving the drop per barrel to about \$57.

Average gasoline prices in Texas stood at \$2.79 a gallon in September, down 67 cents from two years ago, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Smith said U.S. oil production in July, the latest monthly statistic available, was at a record high. He predicted the low oil prices could slow domestic production by next year.

FALL ENROLLMENT SETS RECORD AT TEXAS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

More than 1.6 million students enrolled this fall at Texas colleges and universities — an all-time high, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board reported.

"The record enrollment numbers will help the state's continuing efforts to build a talent-strong Texas and an increasingly educated workforce," said Commissioner of Higher Education Wynn



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Rosser.

For the first time since the pandemic, enrollment numbers surpassed pre-pandemic numbers in each sector of higher education.

JUDGE TOSSES TEXAS BOOK RATING LAW

A Waco federal judge last week threw out a 2023 Texas law that required booksellers and publisher to rate their books based on sexual content and reference, kut.org reported.

The firm representing the coalition of bookstores and publishers hailed the ruling as a "major First Amendment victory."

"The READER Act would have imposed impossible obligations on booksellers and limited access to literature, including classic works, for students across Texas," attorney Laura Lee Prather said in a statement.

HB 900 sought to restrict which books are available in school libraries. It also required booksellers to rate their own books. The bill's author, state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, posted on X that he was "deeply disappointed" by the judge's decision.

PROPOSITION WOULD FUND DEMENTIA PREVENTION RESEARCH

As early voting continues through Oct. 31, the Texas Medical Association is backing Proposition 14, which would provide \$3 billion in funding over a 10-year period for research into pre-

venting dementia. The proposal, if approved, would create the Dementia Prevention Research Institute of Texas.

Houston neurologist Reeta Achari, MD, who testified in favor of DPRIT's creation on behalf of TMA, said Proposition 14 has the potential to make Texas a leader in dementia research, and thus "attract much-needed physicians and subject matter experts and innovators from across the world."

Alzheimer's disease comprises 60-80% of dementia cases and is becoming a public health crisis, according to a report from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Opponents of the measure, according to a nonpartisan analysis by the Texas Legislative Council, fear it would create a new state bureaucracy without sufficient accountability and an open-ended financial risk for taxpayers.

FEDS SLASH ACA ENROLLMENT PROGRAM'S BUDGET

With open enrollment set to begin for the Affordable Care Act, funding for a navigator program that helped 65,000 Texans enroll for health insurance has been slashed by 90%, The Tribune reported.

The state received \$17 million in navigator grants last year. Most of the nearly 4 million Texans covered by an ACA plan find coverage on their own.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid said the return on navigator investment was too low.

"Despite receiving \$98 million in the 2024 plan year, Navigators only enrolled 92,000 consumers—just 0.6 percent of plan selections," according to a CMS statement in February.

About 17% of all Texans are uninsured, the highest rate of all states.

NEARLY ONE FOURTH OF TRAFFIC DEATHS IN OIL AND GAS REGIONS

The Texas Department of Transportation is urging drivers to be extra cautious when driving in one of the state's five main energy regions — the Permian Basin, Eagle Ford Shale, Barnett Shale, Anadarko Basin and the Haynesville/Bossier Shale.

"Oil and gas production activity means large trucks and heavy machinery share the road with local traffic on rural roads and highways," according to the news release.

Nearly 79,000 traffic crashes occurred in those five regions. Failure to control speed and driver inattention were the top two factors contributing to those crashes.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Memorable Gift



My sister and I told my mother we were throwing her a party for her 90th birthday.

"Not everyone knows I'm 90!" she said.

"Well, it's good we tell them," I said. "We told everyone that Dad turned 90 last year, and we don't want people to think he robbed the cradle."

Mom saw the sense in that, and we sent out invitations to friends and family, and even though a few people couldn't make it at the last minute, we still had 34 guests.

Mom told a story about how, on her golden birthday, when she was 10, all the relatives had been invited over to the farmhouse. Mom came from a big family, with 10 siblings and dozens of cousins.

After the cake had been eaten and most of the guests had left, Mom opened a few gifts. We had told everyone not to bring gifts, but a few family members had disregarded the instructions.

"It's practical and cute!" my mother said, and that is high praise coming from someone who is both.

Just when the last of the guests were thinking it was time to head on home, my oldest friend, Andrew, arrived. He was going to take me to the theater, as I have season tickets and we always go together.

"Happy Birthday, Jone!" Andrew said as he walked into the house. "I have some presents for you!"

Andrew handed my mother two bags. In the first was a cookie that said, "Happy Birthday" on it, which was nice.

"There's food in here," my mother said, sounding very confused.

My mother had a right to be confused. There was an entire meal inside the bag. She pulled the items out, and there were three tacos, wrapped in tinfoil, a brownie and a couple of other items that were not identified.

"Someone from DoorDash left it at my door by mistake, and I thought it was providential, and I should bring it to you!" he said.

"Who is this person?" one of the remaining guests whispered to me.

Then, my sister started to laugh, and I did, too. And my mother shook her head.

"I just thought I should bring you a gift," Andrew explained.

"Well, you didn't buy this, did you?" my mother asked.

"That's not very nice, to ask about a gift!" Andrew replied. My father rolled his eyes, and my mother laughed.

My parents have known Andrew since before he had a driver's license. But even knowing someone for almost 50 years does not prepare you for getting pilfered DoorDash on your 90th birthday.

"I brought the most memorable gift, didn't I?" Andrew asked on the way to the theater.

I could not deny it.

Till next time, Carrie

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

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 11: Texans host Jags with hopes of remaining in the Hunt

We will focus on the college and NFL schedule for the remainder of the season starting with next week's column.

There are a number of interesting games on the college schedule this weekend, as No. 2-ranked Indiana visits a reeling Penn State team, which would like nothing more than to pull off the upset to make its season. The Nittany Lions started the season ranked No. 2 in the country, but four straight losses have left PSU scrambling for a minor bowl and also cost head coach James Franklin his job.

Speaking of coaches looking for work, LSU head coach Brian Kelly was sent packing two weeks ago after the Tigers were embarrassed at home by Texas A&M, 49-25, in prime time on national TV. The LSU fit never felt right for the arrogant Northeasterner and Tiger fans weren't crying in their Hurricanes after Kelly was dismissed the day following the blowout loss to the No. 3-ranked Aggies. LSU heads to No. 4-ranked Alabama on Saturday.

Speaking of the Aggies, they head to Columbia, MO on Saturday to take on the No. 19-ranked Tigers, who will be without starting quarterback Beau Pribulau, who suffered a season-ending dislocated ankle two weeks ago in their 17-10 loss at Vanderbilt. Pribulau's loss is huge for the Tigers as he was dual-threat with 1,690 yards passing and 11 TDs and 220 yards rushing and five TDs.

The Aggies proved two weeks ago with their win at LSU that they can win on the road in a hostile environment. It also helps that they will have an extra week to prepare for this one.

The biggest game on this weekend's college schedule comes in the Big 12 when No. 10-ranked BYU visits No. 13-ranked Texas Tech. The winner should be in perfect position to land a spot in the Big 12 title game the first Saturday in December in Arlington.

In the NFL, the Texans host Jacksonville in a key AFC South game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Texans may have saved their season with an impressive 26-15 home win over San Francisco. Quarterback C.J. Stroud had one of his best games in his young three-year career, passing for 318 yards and two TDs, while the defense held SF star running back Christian McCaffrey in check most of the day.

Other key games have the surprising New England Patriots visiting the rested Tampa Bay Buccaneers, while there are two good ones on Sunday Night Football and Monday Night Football. On SNF, the struggling Pittsburgh Steelers will visit the Los Angeles Chargers, while Week 11 concludes on MNF as the Philadelphia Eagles visit the Green Bay Packers. The outcome of that one could go a long way in determining who earns the No. 1 seed in the NFC. The Cowboys have the week off.

Before we take a look at this weekend's schedule, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week upped the season record to 66-40 (62%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Indiana at Penn State - This is the tale of two teams heading in opposite directions as the No. 2-ranked Indiana Hoosiers visits a beaten down Penn State team that entered last week's game against No. 1-ranked Ohio State riding a four-game losing streak. Many thought the Nittany Lions would contend for a national title this year, but subpar play and injuries have doomed this team. PSU



fired head coach James Franklin and needs a signature win to save its season. Good luck with that against an Indiana team that is loaded, led by QB Fernando Mendoza (1,923 yards, 24 TDs), running backs Ramon Hemby (513 yards, 4 TDs) and Kaelon Black (509 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wide receivers Omar Cooper (40 receptions, 607 yards, 7 TDs) and Elijah Suratt (44 receptions, 585 yards, 10 TDs). Penn State has lost starting QB Drew Allar for the year, so look for the Nittany Lions to try and run the ball with Kayton Allen (612 yards, 9 TDs) and Nicholas Singleton (274 yards, 6 TDs) to control the clock and keep Mendoza off the field. Good luck with that. My pick, Indiana 31, Penn State 18

LSU at Alabama - Speaking of teams that have fallen apart this year, the LSU Tigers are just that. Two weeks ago, they were blown out at home by Texas A&M, 49-24, which cost Brian Kelly his job. This week, they face a hot team when they take on No. 4 Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The LSU offense has struggled this year behind QB Garrett Nussmeier (1,804 yards, 12 TDs). He will need to make plays to wide receivers Aaron Anderson (29 receptions, 382 yards) and Barion Brown (36 receptions, 361 yards, 1 TD). Those two have combined for a whopping one touchdown catch this year. The 'Bama offense is rolling behind QB Ty Simpson (2,184 yards, 20 TDs), running back Jam Miller (308 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receivers Germie Berard (38 receptions, 526 yards, 6 TDs) and Ryan Williams (33 receptions, 495 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Crimson Tide to continue to extend the Tigers' misery this year. My pick, Alabama 34, LSU 17

Texas A&M at Missouri - Mike Elko's Aggies come off their bye week with a tough road game at Missouri. After their blowout win at LSU two weeks ago, the Ags received a well-deserved week off, as did the banged-up Tigers, who have lost dual-threat QB Beau Pribulau (1,690 passing yards, 11 TDs/220 rushing yards, 5 TDs). Backup Matt Zollers (213 yards, 2 TDs) will run the Mizzu offense, which will feature a heavy dose of productive running back Ahmad Hardy (937 yards, 11 TDs) and productive wide receiver Kevin Coleman Jr. (51 receptions, 558 yards, 1 TD). The Tiger defense will have its hands full taking on an explosive Aggie offense led by QB Marcel Reed (1,972 passing yards, 17 TDs/349 rushing yards, 6 TDs), running back Rueben Owens II (440 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wideouts Mario Craver (39 receptions, 710 yards, 18.2 yards per catch, 4 TDs) and KC Concepcion (36 receptions, 545 yards, 9 total TDs). Look for the Ags to continue their magical season as they pick up a big road win on Saturday. My pick, Texas A&M 36, Missouri 20

BYU at Texas Tech - This is a big one in the Big 12 for both the Cougars and Red Raiders, with the winner having a good chance of reaching the Big 12 title game Dec. 6 in Arlington. BYU has been one of the surprise teams in the nation this year, which improved to 8-0 two weeks ago with a 41-27 win at Iowa State. The Cougars have gotten excellent play out of true freshman quarterback Bear Bachmeier (1,693 passing yards, 11 TDs/408 rushing yards, 9 TDs), running back LJ Martin (789 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receivers

Chase Roberts (32 receptions, 591 yards, 4 TDs) and Parker Kingston (34 receptions, 514 yards, 4 TDs). BYU will face perhaps its biggest test this year when it faces a Tech defense that has allowed just 12 points a game through its first eight contests. The Red Raiders also have some weapons on offense, and should have starting QB Behren Morton (1,501 yards, 13 TDs in six games) back for this game. Morton missed two games with an ankle injury, and Tech will need him back under center after losing backup QB Will Hammond to a season-ending ACL injury two weeks in Tech's 42-0 win over Oklahoma State. Look for Tech to give running backs Cameron Dickey (680 yards, 9 TDs) and J'Koby Williams (388 yards, 7 total TDs), plenty of action early, then turn Morton loose to hook up with wideouts Caleb Douglas (34 receptions, 511 yards, 2 TDs), Coy Eakin (34 receptions, 455 yards, 4 TDs) and Reggie Virgil (32 receptions, 363 yards, 5 TDs) and tight end Terrance Carter Jr. 23 receptions, 297 yards, 5 TDs) to make plays in the passing game. This could be Tech's biggest home game since its upset of then No. 1-ranked Texas in 2008. My pick, Texas Tech 34, BYU 30

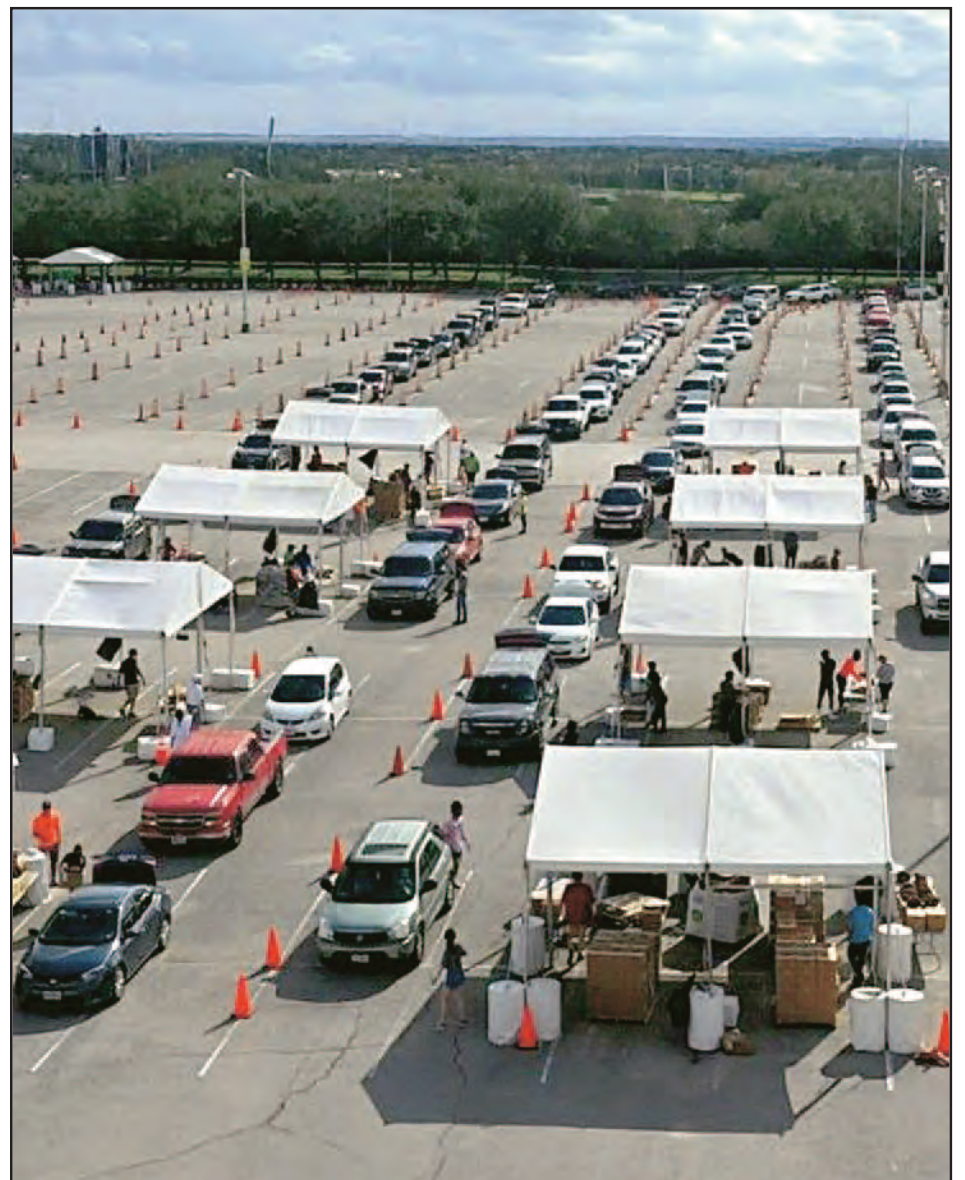
NFL

Jacksonville at Houston - The Texans host the Jaguars in a key AFC South game for both teams. The winner keeps its fledgling playoff hopes alive, while the loser will probably begin looking to the 2026 season. Two weeks ago, the Texans picked up a big win, downing the 49ers, 26-15. QB C.J. Stroud (1,623 yards, 11 TDs) had one of his best games in years, doing it without star wide receiver Nico Collins (26 receptions, 339 yards, 3 TDs), who missed the game with a concussion. In the win over SF, Stroud passed for 318 yards and two TDs. The Houston defense, which has 16 sacks in its first seven games, will look to force a turnover or two from Jags QB Trevor Lawrence (1,620 yards, 9 TDs, 5 interceptions). If the defense can slow down running back Travis Etienne (514 yards, 2 TDs), then the pass rush can bow up and get after Lawrence. My pick, Houston 27, Jacksonville 16

New England at Tampa Bay - The Patriots have been one of the biggest surprise teams so far this season. After winning just four games a year ago, Mike Vrabel has turned the Pats into a serious playoff contender. They entered last week's game against Atlanta with a 6-2 record and atop the AFC East standings. NE has turned things around thanks to second-year QB Drake Maye (2,026 yards, 15 TDs) and wide receivers Stefon Diggs (42 receptions, 470 yards, 1 TD) and Kayshon Boutte (22 receptions, 431 yards, 5 TDs). This will be a good road test when they take on Baker Mayfield (1,919 yards, 13 TDs), whose team is coming off their bye week. They should get some injured receivers back, which should help rookie sensation Emeka Egbuka (34 receptions, 562 yards, 5 TDs). Look for a stout TB defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Patriots roll is slowed down just a bit. My pick, Tampa Bay 23, New England 20

Pittsburgh at Los Angeles Chargers - A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew as the Steelers visit the Chargers in an important game for both teams. Two

Food Bank distributes meals during Government Shutdown



HARRIS COUNTY - To help furloughed government workers and SNAP recipients who are not receiving benefits, the Houston Food Bank is partnering with organizations to expand its food distributions to 15,000 affected households. If you're a furloughed government employee or SNAP recipient, check our profile to get the link to apply for these special distributions.

Registration is Required.

The 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE is also available 24 hours a day for information on how to get food and other basic needs met, according to Amanda McMillian, president and CEO, United Way of Greater Houston.

The Houston Food Bank's community part-

ners in this special endeavor are Houston Texans, Bethel's Heavenly Hands, Catholic Charities Mamie George, Heart and Hands of Baytown, Community Faith Church and West Houston Assistance Ministries.

Houston Food Bank President & CEO Brian Greene said, "This is not about politics, it's about people. We're ensuring the government shutdown have access to nutritious foods while also protecting the stability of Houston Food Bank's regular network. Our goal is to respond quickly, efficiently and with dignity for those in need of assistance, some of whom have never needed it before."

The Houston Food Bank also emphasized that food banks cannot

make up for the disruption in benefits, stating that SNAP provides nine meals for every one given by a food bank.

"While we are confident in our readiness, we are also realistic that demand could outpace our normal supply the longer the shutdown continues, so to sustain this expanded effort, we will need the help of the community more than ever," says Greene. "Donate if you can, volunteer if you are able, and be an advocate and share accurate information when possible. Every dollar donated to Houston Food Bank provides three meals, and every volunteer hour helps us get food out to the community quickly and efficiently."

<https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/.../special.../>

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

THURSDAY, OCT. 30
Rosenberg Lamar Consolidated 35, Baytown Lee 11

FRIDAY, OCT. 31

Barbers Hill, BYE
Crosby 49, New Caney Porter 14
Dayton 37, New Caney West Fork 31
Port Arthur Memorial 63, Baytown Sterling 13
Huffman Hargrave 35, Little Cypress-Mauriceville 28

SATURDAY, NOV. 1

Humble 43, Goose Creek Memorial 28

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES

THURSDAY, NOV. 6
Baytown Sterling vs. Beaumont United (Senior Night) at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

Barbers Hill at Beaumont West Brook at 7 p.m., at Doggett Family Stadium in Beaumont
Crosby at Angleton at 7 p.m., at Wildcat Stadium in Angleton
Dayton at Port Neches-Groves at 7 p.m., at Indian Stadium in Port Neches
Goose Creek Memorial vs. Atascocita at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Huffman Hargrave vs. Bridge City at 7:30 p.m., at Falcon Stadium in Huffman

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

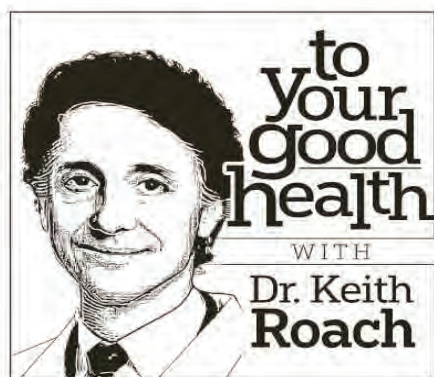
Baytown Lee vs. Fort Bend Marshall at 11 a.m., at Stallworth Stadium



weeks ago, the Steelers defense, especially its secondary, was exposed once again in a 35-25 home loss to Green Bay, while the Chargers offense rolled to a 37-10 wipeout of the Vikings. The Pittsburgh defense will face another tough test Sunday when it faces LA QB Justin Herbert (2,140 yards, 16 TDs) and big-play wideouts Keenan Allen (48 receptions, 479 yards, 4 TDs) and Ladd McConkey (43 receptions, 469 yards, 3 TDs). The Steelers will need QB Aaron Rodgers (1,489 yards, 16 TDs) to be on, along with running back Jaylen Warren (373 yards) and wide receiver DK Metcalf (27 receptions, 461 yards, 5 TDs). My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 27, Pittsburgh 24
Philadelphia at Green

Bay - Week 10 concludes with a really good one as the Eagles visit the Packers. Philly appears to have figured things out on offense as running back Saquon Barkley (150 yards, 2 TDs in win over Giants two weeks ago, 519 yards, 5 total TDs for year) looked like the '24 version. If he gets rolling, that will set up the passing game for QB Jalen Hurts (1,677 passing yards, 15 TDs/207 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and wide receivers DeVonta Smith (44 receptions, 588 yards, 2 TDs) and A.J. Brown (29 receptions, 295 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Dallas Goedert (30 receptions, 289 yards, 7 TDs). This is the type of game why the Packers traded for edge rusher Micah Parsons (6.5 sacks). Look for Parsons to

focus on Hurts most of the night to keep him in check and to keep him from hurting the Pack with his legs. The Packers have a lot of weapons of their own on offense led by QB Jordan Love (1,798 yards, 13 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (447 yards, 9 TDs) and big-play tight end Tucker Kraft (30 receptions, 469 yards, 6 TDs). Love also has capable receivers in Romeo Dobbs (27 receptions, 350 yards, 4 TDs) and getting Christian Watson back just gives Love one more weapon in his arsenal. Look for Parsons to be the difference maker in this one as Green Bay picks up a big win that could be key to them earning the NFC's top seed. My pick, Green Bay 31, Philadelphia 27



Understanding the Risk Reduction of Statins With Cholesterol

DEAR DR. ROACH: A cardiologist recently suggested that I should consider taking a statin because of my "borderline" cholesterol level. So, I took a dive into the details of statin therapy. I learned that although statins are thought to reduce the chance of a cardiovascular event by up to 50%, the actual reduction is very small.

I presented this information to the cardiologist and decided to forego statin therapy, which he endorsed. A better understanding of this difference would be very valuable to your readers. — T.G.

ANSWER: The amount of absolute risk reduction from a statin in a person without known heart disease depends mostly on a person's absolute risk of heart disease. This depends on the person's risk factors such as age, sex, blood pressure, cholesterol level, smoking status, family history, and others. (When a person already has known heart disease, then the benefits of a statin are so large that this kind of analysis isn't generally done.)

The relative risk reduction from a statin depends on the potency and dose of a statin, but a typically used number is about a relative risk reduction of 20%. (A 50% relative risk reduction isn't achievable with the current medication.)

I normally go through this analysis with every patient when considering a statin, and it starts with estimating their absolute risk prior to treatment. There are several calculators to give an estimate; I usually use tinyurl.com/

PREVENTCalc and adjust it for any risk factors that are not considered by the calculator. (I should add that some people have difficulty understanding these numbers and simply ask me about my opinion, which is fine, but I prefer to work collegially.)

For example, a 75-year-old man who has a cholesterol level of 220 mg/dL and an HDL of 45 mg/dL with a blood pressure of 140/80 mmHg (all of which might be considered "borderline"), the calculator gives an estimated absolute risk of 19.4%. This is the risk of this person developing any kind of obstructive heart disease, including a heart attack or death, during the next 10 years.

With a statin, a reasonable guess would be a drop of about 20% of the absolute risk (19.4% in this case), meaning a drop to 15.5%. The relative risk reduction is 20%, but the absolute risk reduction for this person is 3.9%.

A second example is a 50-year-old woman with the exact same numbers who has an absolute risk reduction of 3.6%. She would get the same 20% reduction, but this is only a 0.72% drop for a new absolute risk of 2.88%.

Clinicians and epidemiologists use another number called the "number needed to treat" (NNT), which is a function of the absolute risk reduction. In the examples above, about 26 75-year-old men would need to be treated for 10 years to prevent a case of heart attack or death, while 139 50-year-old women would need to be treated to prevent one case.


The benefit of a statin or any other treatment to reduce heart disease depends on how much risk a person has to begin with. Whether this benefit is "worth it" to any given person depends not only on the absolute benefit, but also on their aversion to medicine and their level of worry about heart disease.

The cost of a statin (\$5 or \$10 a month) isn't a big consideration for most. Serious side effects to statins are rare, but if they occur, there are alternatives.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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PET MATTERS
In Memory of Susan Hoffman



National Puppy Mill Awareness Day

National Puppy Mill Awareness Day: A Call to Action for Texans to Shop the Shelters Instead of Pet Stores

(Austin, Texas) – As Texas Humane Legislation Network observes National Puppy Mill Awareness Day on the third Saturday in September, which falls on September 20, they are reminding all Texans of the critical importance of choosing to adopt over shopping for puppies at pet stores.

"The reality behind the cute puppies found in pet stores is often a grim tale of puppy mills," said Shelby Bobosky, Executive Director of the Texas Humane Legislation Network. "It saddens me that so many Texans are choosing to purchase a puppy through the more than 40 retail pet stores in Texas."

What is A Puppy Mill

While there is no legal definition of a puppy mill, it is typically defined as a large-scale breeding facility that prioritizes profits over the welfare of the animals. Such establishments frequently neglect basic animal welfare standards, resulting in unsanitary conditions, poor health, and emotional trauma for the dogs.

Many puppy mills sell their puppies to pet stores or directly to consumers, often misleading buyers about the origins and health of these puppies. Dogs from these facilities commonly suffer from untreated illnesses, genetic disorders, and behavioral issues triggered by inadequate care.

These are separate from large brand chains like PetSmart or Petco, which focus on selling pet supplies and promoting pet adoption in their stores, as they do not sell puppies or kittens as part of their business model. Additionally, there are responsible, licensed breeders in Texas who do adhere to animal welfare standards and care about the health and wellbeing of pets.

Red Flags to Look for When Buying a Puppy

Texas Humane Legislative Network encourages everyone looking for a puppy to first go to your nearest shelter where you can find a puppy that has been vaccinated and fixed and with a purchase price far lower than any pet store.

But if you are considering adding a puppy outside an animal shelter, Texas Humane Legislation Network recommends looking out for these red flags:

- The puppy is younger than 8 weeks old
- There is a large number of animals available for sale
- Buyers are not allowed to meet the breeding dog parents
- There is no opportunity to view the breeding facility
- The seller has multiple "designer" breeds and shows no interest in the puppy's well-being or future home

What Texas is Doing to Regulate Puppy Mills

The Texas Licensed Breeder Program, enacted in 2011, regulates large-scale commercial dog and cat breeders. It requires any facility with 11 or more adult intact female dogs or cats that sells 20 or more animals in a calendar year to obtain a license.

Recently, the Texas Legislature considered Senate Bill 1652, which aimed to prohibit pet stores from selling puppies and kittens, allowing only those from nonprofit organizations such as shelters to be showcased. Unfortunately, this bill did not pass.

Currently, 18 cities in Texas have adopted their own regulations for retail animal sales, mandating that animals sold in pet shops meet age requirements and be sourced from licensed facilities. Due to legislation passed in 2023, any future ordinances regulating puppy selling pet stores are pre-empted.

Bobosky said, "Although there is more work to be done to end the puppy mill pipeline to Texas, I encourage all Texans to consider adopting from animal shelters and rescues first. The puppy of their dreams just might be waiting for them there."

For more information on Puppy Mill Awareness Day and how you can help, please visit: <https://www.thln.org/>.

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For video or photos to use for publication, Texas Humane Legislation Network, click here.

Texas Humane Legislation Network

For the past 50 years, the Texas Humane Legislation Network has been the leading voice in promoting the humane treatment of animals through legislation, education, and advocacy. They have played a key role in the passage of the majority of animal protection laws in Texas. Unlike other organizations, they are the only Texas-based mainstream group that does not adhere to a national agenda; instead, they focus exclusively on what benefits Texas and its animals. Learn more at www.thln.org.

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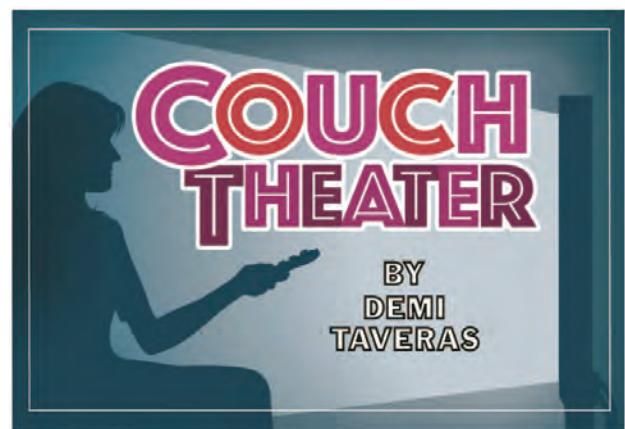
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Oscar Isaac stars in "Frankenstein."

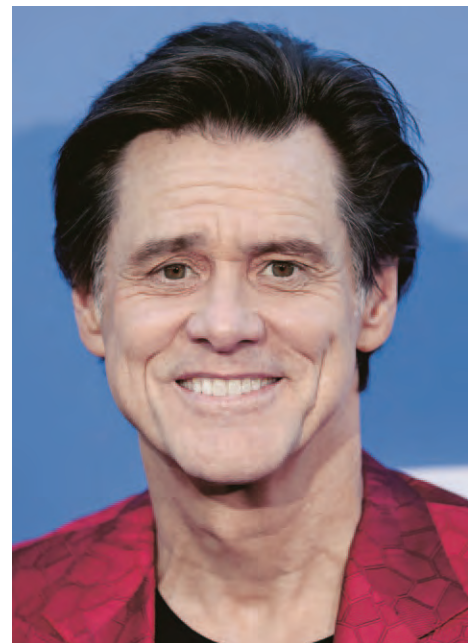
"Frankenstein"

"Frankenstein" (R) — Jacob Elordi ("Saltburn") is taking a page out of Bill Skarsgard's ("Nosferatu") playbook and completely transformed himself for the role of "The Creature" in this gothic sci-fi film from director Guillermo del Toro ("Pinocchio").

involved. (Netflix) "All Her Fault" (TV-MA) — Sarah Snook ("Succession") suited up for another tense leading drama role, which seems to be the actress's forte.

premiere. (Peacock) "I Love LA" (TV-MA) — Actress and comedian Rachel Sennott ("Bottoms") not only stars in the lead role for this new comedy series, but she's the creator and writer behind the series as well.

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo



Jim Carrey ("Sonic the Hedgehog")

HOLLYWOOD — Jim Carrey made 39 films between 1983 and 2016, but suddenly in 2022, after playing Dr. Robotnik in "Sonic the Hedgehog" (2020 and 2022), he announced his retirement from acting.

that are awaiting release: the thriller "Stone Cold Fox," with Kiernan Shipka, and the action thriller "Sierra Madre." He also filmed the British Christmas comedy "Tinsel Town," with Rebel Wilson and Derek Jacobi, back in January in England.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



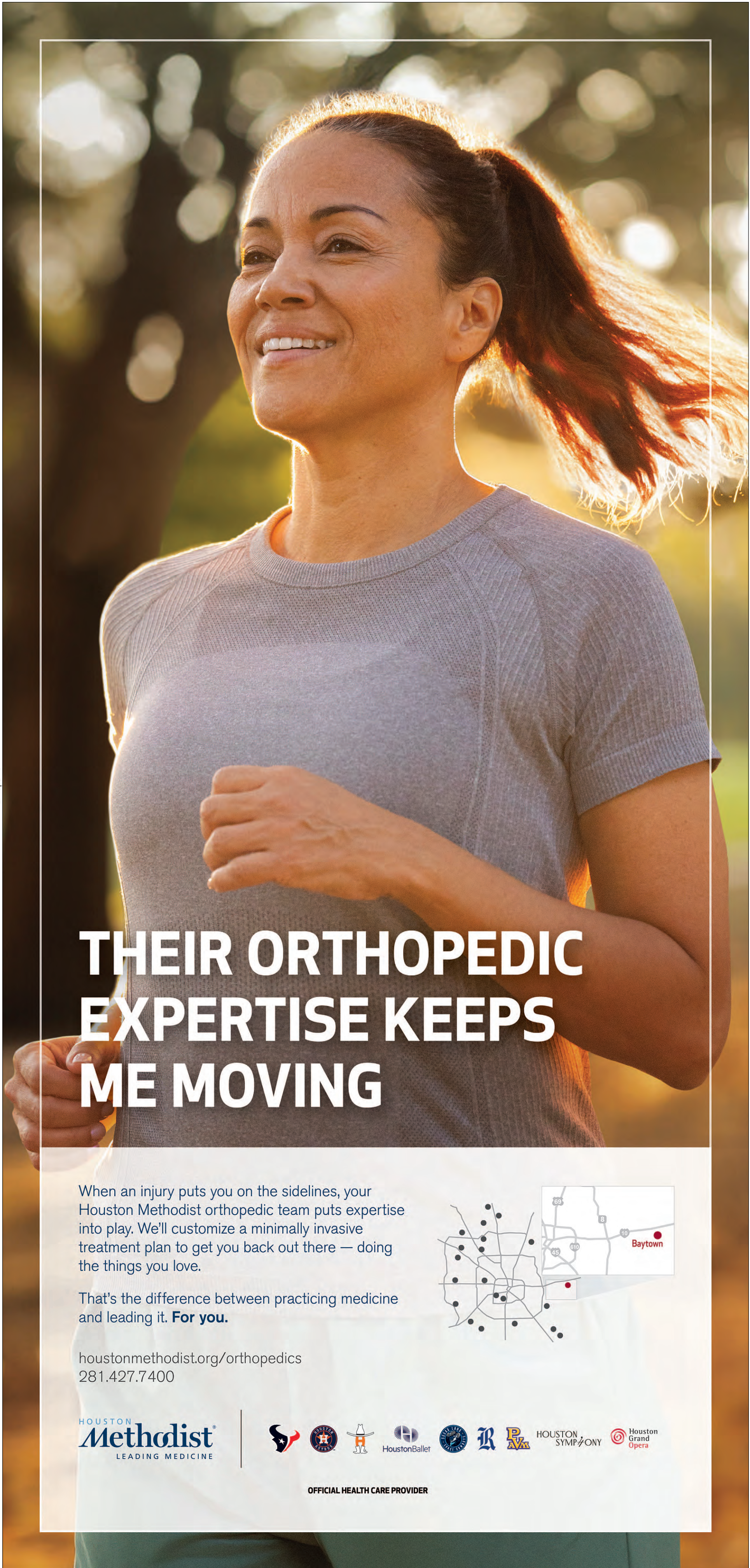
Weekly SUDOKU grid and difficulty instructions

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

King Crossword puzzle grid and clues for November 3, 2025

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions on various topics

Answers for Trivia Test and King Crossword

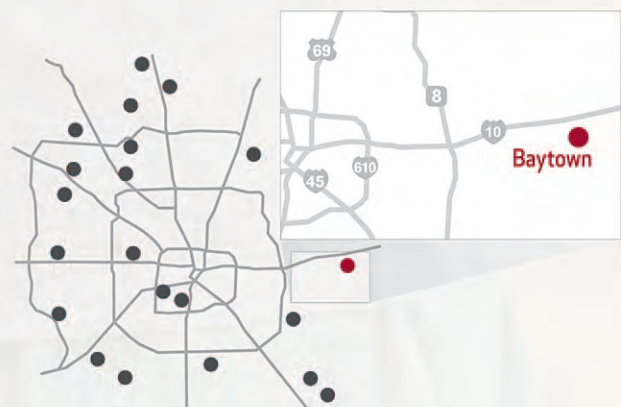


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