



This Artwork is on Display at the Silos Studio of Mei Hoffman, 1502 Sawyer Street. 713-906-4585

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 ■ www.starcouriernews.com

VOL. 72, NO. 46 - \$1.00 © Copyright 2025

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

Highlands' Annual Santa Event Returns Dec. 2



Join Santa and his friends at San Jacinto Community Center for an evening of fun, photos, and fellowship.

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The holiday spirit is set to shine in Highlands as the beloved "Cookies & Photos with Santa" event returns on **December 2, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

at the [San Jacinto Community Center](#). Families are invited to gather at the community center for an evening filled with festive treats, fun activities, and cherished photo opportunities with Santa himself. Doors will close promptly at 7 p.m., so organizers encourage everyone to arrive early and enjoy the festivities.

"This is our annual cookies and pictures with Santa Claus. Doors open for Santa pictures at 5, and families start lining up. There are many groups involved to help make this a success," said Kostka, the event's organizer.

"The Rotary Club of Highlands is there with some hot chocolate for the kids. Highlands Horizons will be there also with candy canes and cookies. The Seniors Helping Seniors group invited Santa Claus and paid for his flight while the reindeer get ready for the worldwide trek on Christmas Eve. The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department will be there with a coloring station for the kids. The Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce will be providing pizza for kids that night," Kostka added.

"We typically see close to 300 through the door on these nights. I think this is our fifth year," Kostka shared, reflecting on the event's growing popularity.

The event is made possible by the generous support of local organizations, including the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce, Highlands Horizons, Seniors Helping Seniors High-Town, Inc., Rotary Club of Highlands, Peet Bighorse and Georgiana Bighorse, Highlands Fire Department, and Tom Ramsey Harris Co. Commissioner PCT 3—and, of course, Santa himself.

As the community comes together for this magical evening, residents are encouraged to "get your Santa pictures checked off your holiday list" and enjoy the warmth and joy of Highlands' small-town holiday spirit.

Crosby ISD Adopts New Three-Tier School Start Times to Combat Tardiness

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Change is coming to Crosby ISD, and it's stirring strong reactions among families and staff. The district has announced a new three-tiered start time schedule for all campuses, set to begin January 6, 2026—a move the administration says is necessary to address traffic congestion and chronic student tardiness. However, many in the community feel blindsided and frustrated by the abrupt timeline and the impact on daily routines.

What's Changing?

The new start and end times for Crosby ISD schools are as follows:



Dr. Paula Patterson posted a video to YouTube explaining the new school hour start times informing parents and the community.

High School: 7:05 a.m. – 2:55 p.m. (previously 7:10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Elementary School: 7:45 a.m. – 3:35 p.m. (previously 8:00 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.)

Middle School: 8:30 a.m. – 4:20 p.m. (previously 7:10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

For many, the most

drastic change is at the middle school level, where the start time shifts a full 80 minutes later.

Community Concerns

Parents have voiced their concerns loudly. Cassie Johnson, a Crosby

ISD parent, expressed frustration over the short notice and the disruption to family routines.

"Do they even realize how many households rely on older siblings to help with drop-offs, pick-ups, and getting off the bus? My high schooler drives my middle schooler to school. Under this new plan, none of that will work anymore. She'll be riding the bus, which might be 'no big deal' to the district, but it completely disrupts how certain families function," Johnson said in a Facebook post on Code Red.

The district says they've been working on this for more than a year.

"We have been discussing this issue and surveying our stakeholders since

August of 2024. At the beginning of this school year, we tried a couple of other less disruptive solutions, but none has resolved the issue, and we simply cannot continue this year with students missing precious instructional time," a statement to the Star-Courier reads.

Some fear their middle schoolers are not age-responsible enough to get themselves up out of bed, take care of their morning routines and get to school on time while parents are already gone to work.

Another parent, Megan Kay, questioned the logic behind the new schedule. "It would make more

Continued. See [START TIMES AT CROSBY ABOUT TO](#), Page 6

Dr. Joe Rodriguez Named Lone Finalist for Goose Creek CISD Superintendent

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Goose Creek CISD has announced that Dr. Joe Rodriguez has been named the lone finalist for superintendent of schools, marking a significant step forward for the district. In accordance with state law, the district will observe a 21-day waiting period before finalizing the contract with Rodriguez. This decision follows a comprehensive search process, during which the board of trustees carefully reviewed community input and engaged in thoughtful deliberation. The board voted unanimously to advance Rodriguez as the lone finalist, citing his leadership style, experience, and vision as a strong match for the dis-

trict's priorities.

"The superintendent search was carried out with the full integrity that our community expects and deserves. Every community survey was reviewed, and every comment from our focus groups was carefully considered as we worked through this important decision," said James "Jim" Campisi, board president of Goose Creek CISD. "The board is confident in the leader we have chosen to guide Goose Creek CISD forward with a clear focus on student achievement and success, and we believe Dr. Joe Rodriguez reflects the values, hopes, and priorities shared by our families, staff, and community," Campisi said in a statement from the



Dr. Dr. Joe Rodriguez has been named the lone finalist for superintendent of schools for Goose Creek CISD.

district.

With 27 years in public education, Rodriguez brings a wealth of experience and a student-focused vision to his new role. His career has spanned positions as an elementary and high school principal, as-

sistant superintendent, and five years as chief of schools in Fort Bend ISD, where he managed the daily operations of 81 campuses serving more than 78,000 students.

During his tenure in Fort Bend, Rodriguez led districtwide initiatives that improved academic performance, expanded student opportunities, and provided campus leaders with robust support systems. These efforts contributed to the removal of low-performing designations and earned statewide recognition for excellence.

In 2021, Rodriguez became superintendent of Fredericksburg ISD, where his student-first, team-centered approach continues to shape the district. Under his leadership,

academic outcomes improved, the community passed its largest bond in history, employee salaries increased significantly, and new safety and security measures were implemented to protect students and staff.

Throughout his career, Rodriguez has remained committed to the belief that students achieve their best when supported by confident teachers, strong campus leadership, and a community that stands behind them. This philosophy has guided his work and shaped the culture he strives to build.

Rodriguez has a deep connection to the Baytown area, which he and his

Continued. See [UNANIMOUS CHOICE: BOARD TAPS](#), Page 2

Baytown Officials Address Election Complaints, Map Issues, Public Trust

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Baytown is facing questions over recent ballot controversies, with residents raising concerns about missing names and election irregularities during the last city council election. In an interview, city officials clarified the situation, emphasizing that while there have been complaints, the issues are not as widespread or intentional as some fear.

"Three times—three elections—that y'all haven't had people's names on the ballots and whatever. What's going on with all that?" asked one resident during the public comments at city council last Thursday.

City officials on Monday responded, "Some of that's



misleading. We only received three complaints about this election process. But you're talking about a history of issues with each election. Typically, the issue is somewhere within the maps, and it's not always the same problem each time. This time, it involved the maps again," said city spokesperson Jason Calder.

One notable complica-

tion stemmed from two streets sharing the same name in different districts, which "muddies the water a little bit." Officials stressed that these problems were not intentional or nefarious.

"Nope, not at all. Harris County and our city clerk's office start working on this (election) months in advance. The city clerk's office doesn't make the

maps; that's handled by our GIS people in the planning department. Then the city clerk reviews them with Harris County, and any changes are addressed quickly, especially with electronic voting," Calder explained.

Of the three complaints received, one involved a voter who had already cast their ballot before realizing an issue. This led to further calls from concerned residents, but officials noted, "You've already voted. The challenge is figuring out what part is political and what part is truthful."

The mayor recently reminded voters to be careful, stating, "We're not trying to take away your right and privilege. We're just trying to figure these issues out without making

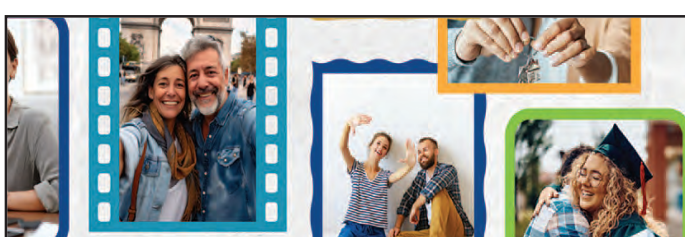
the problem bigger if it doesn't need to be."

When asked how many votes were truly affected, officials said, "We know of the complaints that were made to us, and there were three. The city clerk's office addresses complaints in coordination with Harris County. The responsibility for election operations is shared between the city, Harris County, and election judges. The city provides data, but polling place management lies within Harris County," Calder described the process.

Looking forward, the city is reviewing procedures and working with Harris County to improve communication and train

Continued. See [BAYTOWN REVIEWS ELECTION](#), Page 6

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



90 YEARS OF LENDING

The Perfect Loan Starts Here.



LEARN MORE!
CRCU.ORG/LOANSFORLIFE

Community Resource CREDIT UNION



Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

VOL. 30, NO. 46

© Copyright 2025

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Runoff Election For Unexpired Term In Previous 18th Congressional District

AUSTIN-Governor Greg Abbott today issued a proclamation announcing Saturday, January 31, 2026 as the runoff election date for the unexpired term in the previous 18th Congressional District seat vacated by the late Congressman Sylvester Turner.

Early voting will begin on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

Runoff Election For Texas Senate District 9

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today issued a proclamation announcing Saturday, January 31, 2026 as the runoff election date for the Texas Senate District 9 seat vacated by former Senator Kelly Hancock.

Early voting will begin on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

Dayton High School Choir Advances Eight Students to Area in TMEA All-State Process

Dayton, Texas – November 6, 2025 - Dayton Independent School District is proud to announce that eight Dayton High School choir students have advanced to the Area round of the highly competitive Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State Choir audition process. This marks one of the strongest showings in Dayton High School Choir history and represents a major achievement for the district's fine arts program.

Exceptional Student Achievement The following Dayton High School students earned advancement to Area after their outstanding performances at the Pre-Area audition, held at Huffman Middle School on Saturday, November 6:

- Jacob Smith (12)
- Richard Caster (12)
- Jeremiah Gant (11)
- Keira Carroll (12)
- Joseph Briggs (12)
- Abigail Vega (10)
- Anna Briggs (11)
- Olivia Williams (12)

These eight students also previously earned placement in the Region 10 Vocal All-Region Choir, joining 14 Dayton choir members selected during the September 7 auditions.



They performed at the All-Region Clinic and Concert hosted at Westbrook High School on October 20–21.

About the Competition Dayton HS Choir competes in TMEA Vocal Region 10, designated for large school (5A/6A) programs, which includes Beaumont ISD high schools, Nederland High School, Memorial High School (Port Arthur), and Dayton High School.

Advancing eight students from Pre-Area to Area is a rare and exceptional accomplishment, reflecting the high caliber of Dayton's choral program. The Area round, the final step before All-State qual-

ification, will take place at Midway High School in Waco, Texas, on Saturday, January 10.

Why This Achievement Matters The TMEA All-State process is one of the most rigorous fine arts competitions in Texas. Students must advance through three rounds of auditions:

1. Region – held September 27 at Port-Neches Groves High School
2. Pre-Area – held November 6 at Huffman Middle School
3. Area – final audition on January 10 at Midway High School

Students selected at Area will become members of the Large School Texas All-State Choir and will participate in the TMEA Convention in San Antonio, February 11–14, performing alongside top 5A and 6A vocalists from across

the state. Placement in All-State choirs (Tenor-Bass, Treble, or Mixed) is determined by ranking at the Area audition.

The last Dayton High School student to earn placement in the Texas All-State Treble Choir was in 2018, highlighting the significance of this year's achievement.

Program Excellence Dr. Young, Superintendent of Dayton ISD, praised the students and program: "This accomplishment reflects the dedication, talent, and hard work of our choir students and their director. Dayton ISD is proud to see our fine arts programs shine at the state level."

DHS Choral Director, now in her 23rd year, shared: "This is the largest group of students the Dayton HS Choir has ever had to advance to the Area audition. This is a huge accomplishment! It's definitely a great day to be a Bronco!"

Historical insight shared by a former Dayton HS Choir member said that it has been many years since the program has seen a group of this size advance to Area!

Next Steps All eight students will compete at the Area audition on January 10. Those selected will advance to the Texas All-State Choir, earning one of the highest honors a high school vocalist can achieve.

United Way Invests Crisis Funding to Address Rising Food Insecurity

Baytown, TX — United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County is taking decisive action to strengthen our region's food support network during a time of growing need. With delays and interruptions in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit payments putting families at risk, United Way is proactively investing Crisis Fund dollars to ensure our neighbors continue to have reliable access to nutritious food.

Across Baytown and Chambers County, thousands of families rely on SNAP to meet their basic nutritional needs. When payments are disrupted—even for a short time—local food pantries and basic needs providers quickly experience overwhelming demand. United Way is uniquely positioned to respond in moments like these, coordinating with trusted partners and mobilizing support to stabilize access to food for households who need it most.

According to the October 2025 Texas Health and Human Services report:

- 4,035 individuals in Chambers County and 641,119 individuals in Harris County are eligible for SNAP benefits.
- Baytown's population of 84,538 includes 18.1% of residents receiving SNAP benefits (2023 American Community Survey).
- In total, more than 19,000 residents across United Way's service area rely on SNAP each month—meaning even temporary delays have an



immediate and profound impact on food demand.

United Way's Crisis Fund investment will allow the purchase and distribution of essential food items to local pantries and food support programs across Baytown and Chambers County. Additionally, emergency grants will be made available to agencies experiencing surges in requests for food, rent, and utility assistance as families work to stay afloat.

"This coordinated response strengthens the entire local support network," said Melissa Reabold, CEO. "By investing Crisis Fund dollars directly into food access and basic needs assistance, we're helping ensure that families don't go hungry and that our partners have the resources necessary to meet rising demand. Together, we're building hope one household at a time."

While this investment provides critical immediate relief, the need continues to grow. United Way is

calling on individuals, businesses, and community partners to stand with us. Your support ensures that children, seniors, and families facing hardship do not fall through the cracks—especially during the holiday season, when compassion, generosity, and community spirit mean the most.

You can make a meaningful impact by **donating to the Crisis Fund**, which strengthens our local safety net and ensures families have food, stability, and hope. Give now at www.unitedwaygbacc.org, or contact United Way at **281.424.5922** or campaign@unitedwaygbacc.org.

You can also **volunteer your time** to support food distributions, pantry restocking, and other critical services. Sign up at <https://volunteer.unitedwaygbacc.org>. United is the way we can ensure that every family in our community has what they need to move forward with dignity and hope today, and every day.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Barbers Hill Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances Governmental Funds For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

Exhibit C-2

| Data Control Codes | 199 | 481 | 599 | 699 | Total | 98 |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | General Fund | Branch Campus Maintenance Tax | Debt Service Fund | Capital Projects Fund | Nonmajor Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
| REVENUES | | | | | | |
| 5700 | Local and intermediate revenues | \$ 136,698,714 | \$ 9,202,117 | \$ 46,360,037 | \$ 9,545,806 | \$ 5,967,281 |
| 5800 | State program revenues | 10,405,083 | - | 1,234,350 | 43,176 | 918,632 |
| 5900 | Federal program revenues | 432,562 | - | - | - | 3,499,924 |
| 5020 | Total revenues | 147,536,359 | 9,202,117 | 47,594,387 | 9,588,982 | 10,385,837 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | | | | | |
| Current: | | | | | | |
| 0011 | Instruction | 66,736,760 | - | - | 1,241,136 | 3,198,920 |
| 0012 | Instructional resources and media services | 872,973 | - | - | 72,206 | 87,782 |
| 0013 | Curriculum and instructional staff development | 2,148,370 | - | - | - | 182,417 |
| 0021 | Instructional leadership | 922,888 | - | - | - | 922,888 |
| 0023 | School leadership | 5,556,782 | - | - | 13,625 | - |
| 0031 | Guidance, counseling, and evaluation services | 4,332,866 | - | - | 7,610 | 268,165 |
| 0032 | Social work services | 623,417 | - | - | - | 16,085 |
| 0033 | Health services | 1,335,529 | - | - | 14,408 | - |
| 0034 | Student transportation | 4,743,987 | - | - | 1,117,902 | - |
| 0035 | Food services | - | - | - | - | 5,285,145 |
| 0036 | Extracurricular activities | 3,492,529 | - | - | 271,203 | 891,803 |
| 0041 | General administration | 4,063,687 | - | 20 | 7,135 | - |
| 0051 | Plant maintenance and operations | 10,932,573 | - | - | 3,628,715 | - |
| 0052 | Security and monitoring services | 1,440,946 | - | - | 128,683 | 270,415 |
| 0053 | Data processing services | 1,931,557 | - | - | 341,819 | 12,772 |
| 0061 | Community services | 8,128,872 | - | - | - | - |
| Debt service: | | | | | | |
| 0071 | Principal on long-term debt | 38,376 | - | 25,100,000 | - | 25,138,376 |
| 0072 | Interest on long-term debt | 2,779 | - | 20,851,312 | - | 20,854,091 |
| 0073 | Issuance costs and fees | - | - | 20,763 | 1,538,157 | - |
| Capital outlay: | | | | | | |
| 0081 | Facilities acquisition and construction | 3 | - | - | 37,234,144 | - |
| Intergovernmental: | | | | | | |
| 0091 | Contracted instructional services between schools | 34,055,409 | - | - | - | 34,055,409 |
| 0099 | Other intergovernmental charges | 1,111,289 | 9,151,394 | - | - | 10,262,683 |
| 6030 | Total expenditures | 152,471,592 | 9,151,394 | 45,972,095 | 45,616,743 | 10,213,504 |
| 1100 | Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures | (4,935,233) | 50,723 | 1,622,292 | (36,027,761) | 172,333 |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) | | | | | | |
| 7911 | Capital-related debt issued (general obligation bonds) | - | - | - | 180,365,000 | 180,365,000 |
| 7916 | Premium or (discount) on issuance of bonds | - | - | - | 10,363,157 | 10,363,157 |
| 7949 | Other resources | - | - | 350,000 | - | 350,000 |
| 8948 | Tax refund pursuant to Texas Tax Code 313 | (3,825,414) | - | - | - | (3,825,414) |
| 7080 | Total other financing sources (uses) | (3,825,414) | - | 350,000 | 190,728,157 | 187,252,743 |
| 1200 | Net change in fund balances | (8,760,647) | 50,723 | 1,972,292 | 154,700,396 | 172,333 |
| 0100 | Fund balances - beginning | 40,588,192 | - | 35,689,043 | 83,667,593 | 2,943,374 |
| 3000 | FUND BALANCES - ENDING | \$ 31,827,545 | \$ 50,723 | \$ 37,661,335 | \$ 238,367,989 | \$ 3,115,707 |

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

★ OPINION PAGE ★



Many of our Native American tribes call this month the "hunger moon," and for good reason. The early fall hunting is generally over, the late season hunts in the snow aren't happening yet, and the fishing? Well ... let's just say the salmon are all spawned out and dead, the trout? (Well, who can really figure out a trout's thought processes) and the burbot is delicious and isn't too hard to catch, but they are one of Nature's ugliest creatures, giving even the mole rat a run for his money.

But most of us go to the store in November and buy grub the way we do the rest of the year. The hunger moon shouldn't affect us, really.

But it does.

Our daylight has pinched off to about zilch, It's cold enough in the living room to hang meat, and the kids are bringing home report cards that look as though they've been put together by gnomes.

But there is one saving grace, here in the good old U.S.A. ... Thanksgiving. Oh yes, we know that, even if our forefathers were smart enough NOT to sail here with the Pilgrims, we still get to absorb our country's most delicious holiday on Thanksgiving.

No matter what our ancestry tells us is the kind of food to eat then, at least we are entitled to a bunch of it. We know it's a tradition to help send the world's dumbest bird, the turkey, just a bit closer to extinction, but there is plenty of other stuff to bullsnake down if the choice of dark meat or light meat doesn't float our particular gastric boat.

But the main point of Thanksgiving is to look around the table and be thankful to the Creator for letting our family once again gather here to scratch that gluttonous itch as we rack our brains to try to remember who that guy is across the table with the gray hair.

But I suppose he belongs here, too. Just like me.

COUNTY MATTERS Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia

Harris County Rejects Divisive Rhetoric and Embraces Its Diversity

Harris County, TX — In response to Governor Abbot's Anti-Muslim Action, Commissioner Ellis, Garcia, and Briones have released the following statement:

"Governor Abbott's decision to designate Muslim organizations as "foreign terrorist organizations" today is a reckless action that fuels fear and runs contrary to Harris County's success as the country's most diverse metro area. It also has no basis in the law.

Harris County has thrived as a welcoming place for all. People come here from around the world. Not only do we contribute to their success, but they contribute to ours. We all work together to build a safe, prosperous community. The governor's rhetoric fractures community trust and undermines the safety and cohesion that government is meant to protect.

We, as Harris County Commissioners, condemn the Governor's decision and urge him to reverse it."

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. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

TEA Releases financial Accountability Ratings

More than four-fifths of Texas public schools received an 'A' rating for their financial practices, according to the Texas Education Agency, which released the final financial accountability ratings for the latest school year last week.

A total of 969 school districts and charter schools, or 81%, received the top rating for their financial management practices.

"By maintaining strong financial practices, these school systems are building brighter futures for the students and communities they serve," a news release stated.

Ten percent of school districts got 'B' ratings, while 6% received 'C' ratings. Failing grades were given to 18 school districts and eight charter schools.

All Texas public school systems are required to share their financial accountability ratings with parents and taxpayers at public meetings. Individual results for a school district can be found at txschools.gov.

FEDERAL BAN ON THC PRODUCTS SIGNED INTO LAW

A spending deal signed into law last week to end the federal government shutdown includes a ban on nearly all THC products that could devastate the Texas hemp industry, the Houston Chronicle reported. The restrictions will not take effect for another year.

The legislation caps the amount of THC, the psychoactive ingredient found in both marijuana and hemp products, at 0.4 milligrams per package. That would force the removal of nearly all currently available hemp products found in stores across the state, including edibles, beverages and smokable versions of hemp.

An earlier attempt at the state level to ban hemp products was vetoed by Gov. Greg Abbott. After state legislators failed in two special sessions to produce ways to regulate hemp, Abbott issued an executive order banning its purchase by anyone under 21 years of age.

The hemp industry plans to fight the law, saying it jeopardizes U.S. farmers and threatens more than 300,000 jobs nationwide.

"The next year will be critical in determining the future of hemp," Art Massolo, U.S. Hemp



Roundtable President, said in a statement. "As a significant American industry, we are committed to sharing with Congress the real story about hemp."

Approximately 8,000 retailers in Texas sell products derived from hemp, though a ban on electronic vapes that went into effect Sept. 1 wiped out an estimated 30% of their income.

TRUMP BACKS ABBOTT IN REELECTION BID; BELL ENTERS RACE

President Donald Trump endorsed Abbott's unprecedented bid for a fourth term, praising his efforts to redraw congressional maps last summer, The Texas Tribune reported. Abbott responded to the early endorsement, saying he would work with Trump to "build a stronger, safer, more prosperous Texas and America."

As the governor enters the race with almost \$90 million in his campaign war chest, former U.S. Rep. Chris Bell of Houston has entered the race on the Democratic side. Bell ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2006, finishing second in a crowded race to then-Gov. Rick Perry.

Also running in the Democratic primary to date are state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, businessman Andrew White, and rancher Bobby Cole.

ABBOTT PROPOSES WIPING OUT LOCAL SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES

Abbott is proposing a state constitutional amendment to eliminate local school property taxes, which provides most of public school funding in Texas, the Chronicle reported.

"It's time that we drive a stake through the heart of the ability of local property tax hikes in the

future," he said.

In the current biennial state budget, legislators allocated \$51 billion for property tax relief, representing a fourth of the state's total spending. Texas gets about one-third of its revenue from sales tax. The comptroller's office last year concluded that to replace the \$81 billion of property taxes collected in 2023, the state would have to increase the sales tax rate to 22%.

The state has had historic budget surpluses for the past several years, but some experts are warning that this could come to an end.

"The big carryover balances that we've had the last couple sessions are very, very, unusual," said Shannon Halbrook, the director of Invest Texas at Every Texan. "If we have an economic downturn, how do we keep paying for the tax cuts that we've committed to?"

TXDOT SAYS MORE PUBLIC TRANSIT NEEDED

A draft report from the Texas Department of Transportation says the state needs to boost public transportation in rural and smaller urban areas and add rail between the state's major urban areas if Texas is going to continue to grow, the Texas Standard reported.

"We have almost 32 million Texans, millions of (jobs), thousands of companies locating to Texas in droves, headquarters, etc.," said Caroline Mays, TXDOT's director of planning and modal programs. "The fundamental need is, how do we address mobility needs for this growing Texas?"

While the state plans to spend \$146 billion over the next decade to maintain and expand the state's highway system, public transit funding has largely languished. The state spends nothing on public transit in major urban areas, reserving its limited funding for rural and smaller urban transit agencies.

"What I would tell you is that it's foolish, shortsighted and moronic not to start making comprehensive plans when you know unquestionably that the population growth is going to double in the next 25 years," state Rep. Terry Canales, D-Edinburgh, said.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR KINSHIP FOSTER FAMILIES BOOSTED

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has eliminated 195 rules viewed as obstacles to Texas families fostering family members, the agency announced last week. A total of 75% of all administrative requirements have been eliminated, making it easier for relatives to become foster parents.

"By removing unnecessary barriers, we're helping Texans open their homes to relatives in need," said HHS Executive Commissioner Cecile Erwin Young. "These changes will give more children in foster care the opportunity to grow up in a familiar, loving environment."

- Regulation changes include: Streamline housing inspections to focus on the health and environmental safety of kinship foster homes. Eliminate unnecessary training requirements for kinship foster parents. Require less documentation for over-the-counter medications.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Wearing Capris



I was weeding through my closet, as I need to do much more often than I do. I bring my used clothing to my parent's house, up north, because they have a very nice thrift store that employs the developmentally disabled people. It appears my old clothes find new owners quickly, so I don't feel as bad about dumping my ill-considered clothing choices.

I brought the latest batch up north right before leaving for Mexico when I realized I owned about six more pairs of capris than I would ever wear. I had them in sizes that didn't fit and colors that didn't match, so I piled them all into a duffel, along with a blue sweater that I thought my sister might like. I thought I'd wear the sweater while writing, but it has big, bell-shaped sleeves, and I discovered trying to type with giant sleeves was not practical.

So my mother kept the duffel until the next time my sister and my niece, Isabelle, came up to visit. This was Isabelle's last visit before she went to Argentina for the year. My mother dutifully had my sister try on the blue sweater with the large sleeves, and my sister said that, while it was a nice sweater, it made her look exactly like Paddington Bear, so she passed on the sweater. My mother kept one pair of capris.

"Don't you want to try on some of these capris?" my sister asked Isabelle.

Isabelle just graduated from college. She is, and has always been, a very fashionable person, and I could have told you that she was not going to be excited about her aunt's hand-me-down capris, but I was still surprised when my sister reported to me what she said.

"I have never worn capris," Isabelle announced, "and I'm not about to start now!"

I had absolutely no idea that capris were old women's clothes until this was pointed out to me.

I went to New York just a week or so later, and I scanned the crowds. Coming from the Midwest, I am at a disadvantage when it comes to knowing what is or is not in fashion, but I knew New Yorkers would be a reliable source of information. I was there for three days, and I walked from Midtown to Soho, surveying the legwear of the women I saw, and I am here to report that Isabelle was right. No capris!

This is the thing about getting old. You don't realize you are doing it until it's too late.

I am now in San Miguel de Allende. No one comes to SMA, as folks call it, for spring break. It takes too long to get to, and it is too far from an ocean. This means that the people who are here have plenty of time to come and go and are not particularly interested in beaches. In other words, they are old.

One of the nicest things about SMA for me is that here, I am pretty young for an old person. Most of the old people are older than I am, which makes me feel youngish. Yesterday I was walking around town a little earlier than usual, and there were lots of women on the streets. It was a beautiful sunny day, and I noticed—I could not help but notice—that every single woman in my line of sight was wearing capris. Every single one.

Of course, Isabelle is right. Capris are totally out of date. The good thing is, here in San Miguel, so are we.

Till next time, Carrie

HIGHLANDS CROSBY Star Courier USPS 244-500 Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 14:

Aggies look for 12th win against disappointing Texas: Cowboys host Kansas City on Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and while we dine on turkey and all the trimmings with family and friends, there will be plenty of important football games at the college and pro level to keep us entertained this holiday weekend.

The college schedule is loaded with key late-season conference games, no bigger than in the Big 10 where No. 1-ranked Ohio State will travel to Ann Arbor to take on 18-ranked Michigan at 11 a.m. on FOX on Saturday. Ryan Day's team will be looking to cap off a perfect season, but it won't be easy against a Wolverine team that has won four straight in this bitter rivalry. Playing on the road won't make things any easier for the Buckeyes, who will bring in one of the best defenses in the country into the Big House on Saturday. The OSU defense is allowing just 7.3 points per game and as they say, defense travels.

Speaking of bitter rivalries, No. 3-ranked Texas A&M, which overcame a 27-point deficit at home to South Carolina and pulled out a 31-30 win, heads to Austin to take on No. 17-ranked Texas with the Aggies looking to improve to 12-0 on the season and land a spot in their first-ever SEC title game. The 2025 season has been somewhat of a disappointment for Steve Sarkisian's Longhorns, who entered the season ranked No. 1 in the country, but three losses later (the latest a 35-10 beat down at Georgia two weeks ago) has left UT with three losses and on the outside looking for their College Football Playoff (CFP) hopes. An upset of the Aggies might give them a glimmer of hope, but there are just too many other teams in the SEC and other leagues that are more deserving of one of the 12 playoff spots that are available.

Speaking of Georgia, the No. 5 Bulldogs head to Atlanta to take on No. 15 Georgia Tech in an in-state rivalry. Kirby Smart's team has a good chance to face the Aggies in the SEC title game, and with this being a non-conference game, look for the Bulldogs to use it as a tuneup for that game.

In the Big 12, No. 6-ranked Texas Tech heads to West Virginia to take on a Mountaineers team that has struggled this year, but a win over the Red Raiders would be monumental for them. Tech has not won in Morgantown since 2021, and that fact won't be lost on Red Raider head coach Joey McGuire. He knows there is too much at stake to look past WVU, namely a spot in the Big 12 title game on Dec. 6 in Arlington. Tech had an extra week to rest up for this game, so look for the Red Raiders to be focused for this one.

In the NFL, Thanksgiving means a triple header on Turkey Day, plus a Black Friday game. On Thursday, Detroit hosts Green Bay in a key NFC North game for both teams, at noon on FOX, followed by Kansas City at Dallas at 3:30 p.m. on CBS. Both the Chiefs and Cowboys are playing for their playoff lives, which could make for an intriguing matchup Turkey Day afternoon. The nightcap pits Cincinnati at Baltimore on NBC at 7:20 p.m.

On Friday, the surprising Chicago Bears, leaders of the NFC North, visit the Philadelphia Eagles at 2 p.m. on Amazon Prime.

The Texans, who improved to 5-5 and kept their playoff hopes alive two weeks ago with a 16-13 win at Tennessee, face a stern test when they head to Indianapolis to take on the AFC South leading Colts.

Also on Sunday, the Los Angeles Rams head to Charlotte to take on the surprising Carolina Panthers, who improved to 6-5 two weeks ago with a road win at Atlanta. There's also another big one in the AFC as Buffalo visits Pittsburgh, and beat up QB Aaron Rodgers.

Sunday Night Football features AFC West leader Denver at struggling Washington, while Week 13 concludes with Monday Night Football as the Giants visit the AFC East leading New England Patriots. Two weeks ago, NE won its eighth straight game and has been THE surprise team in the '25 season after going 4-13 in 2024. I'd say first-year head coach Mike Vrabel is a shoe in for NFL Coach of the Year.

Before we look at this



holiday weekend's big games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week brought the season record to 91-49 (65%).

I'd like to wish all of you a Happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday. Please enjoy time with your family and friends and thanks for reading this column.

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Georgia at Georgia Tech - Kirby Smart's team heads to Atlanta to take on a Georgia Tech Yellowjacket team that still has their CFP hopes alive. Tech improved to 9-1 two weeks ago with a come-from-behind win at Boston College, while Georgia once again dominated Texas (that's three straight wins over UT). The 'Dawgs defense will have its hands full with Ga. Tech dual-threat QB Hayes King (2,259 passing yards, 10 TDs/807 rushing yards, 14 TDs). King has help from running back Malachi Hosley (625 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Eric Rivers (39 receptions, 529 yards, 1 TD). Georgia has a few offensive weapons as well led by QB Gunner Stockton (2,269 passing yards, 19 TDs/350 rushing yards, 8 TDs), running back Nate Frazier (647 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wideout Zachariah Branch (59 receptions, 529 yards, 1 TD). The Bulldogs appear to be rolling and are setting their sights on a long run in the CFP, and Georgia Tech will find that out the hard way come Friday. My pick, Georgia 34, Georgia Tech 15

Texas A&M at Texas - The No. 3 Aggies head to Austin to take on the No. 18 Longhorns on Friday night at 6:30 on ABC. It's good to have this rivalry back, but for UT, they will be playing for pride and little else, well, maybe a spot in the Alamo Bowl. Wow, Sark's team has taken a huge fall since starting the year ranked No. 1 in the country in both the AP and Coaches polls. The 'Horns have been unable to run the ball all year long, so look for the Aggie defense to tee off on QB Arch Manning (2,374 passing yards, 19 TDs/186 rushing yards, 6 TDs). On the other hand, the A&M is loaded with weapons led by QB Marcel Reed (2,632 passing yards, 22 TDs/391 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and productive wide receivers KC Concepcion (47 receptions, 787 yards, 10 total TDs) and Mario Craver (47 receptions, 781 yards, 4 TDs). A&M has so much more to play for, namely a spot in the SEC title game on Dec. 6 and a CFP berth. Look for the Ags to come out smoking in Austin on Friday night. My pick, Texas A&M 30, Texas 23

Ohio State at Michigan - No. 1 Ohio State heads to Ann Arbor looking to end its four-year losing streak to its bitter rival. Ryan Day's team is pretty much assured of a spot in the Big 10 title game (probably against Indiana) and is a virtual lock for the CFP, but Day's team wants to finish the regular season undefeated and let the rest of the CFP field know they are serious about repeating as champs. The OSU defense is one of the best in the country as evidenced by the paltry 7.3 points it allowed in its first 10 games. Michigan freshman QB Bryce Underwood (1,951 passing yards, 7 TDs/302 rushing yards, 5 TDs) will find that out in a painful way come Saturday. The Buckeyes also have a pretty fair offense led by QB Julian Sayin (2,575 yards, 25 TDs), running back Bo Jackson (725 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wideouts Jeremiah Smith (69 receptions, 902 yards, 10 TDs) and Carnell Tate (39 receptions, 711 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Buckeyes to be one focused football team from start to finish come Saturday. My pick, Ohio State 36, Michigan 16

Texas Tech at West Virginia - No. 6 Texas Tech heads to Morgantown, WV with much at stake on Saturday, namely their first-ever appearance in the Big 12 title game and a berth in the CFP.

Tech head coach Joey McGuire knows his team has struggled on the road against WVU, but he had an extra week to get his troops prepared and I expect the Red Raiders to be very focused for this one. QB Behren Morton (2,118 yards, 18 TDs), running backs Cameron Dickey (944 yards, 13 TDs), JKoby Williams (647 rushing yards, 5 TDs/27 receptions, 362 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receivers Caleb Douglas (48 receptions, 696 yards, 5 TDs), Reggie Virgil (45 receptions, 561 yards, 6 TDs) and Coy Eakin (41 receptions, 532 yards, 4 TDs) will look to attack a suspect Mountaineer defense. The Tech defense, led by big-play linebacker Jacob Rodriguz (100 tackles, 4 interceptions) will look to harass freshman QB Scotty Fox Jr. (1,178 passing yards, 7 TDs) all afternoon. My pick, Texas Tech 38, West Virginia 15

NFL

Green Bay at Detroit - The NFL's Thanksgiving Day triple header starts in the Motor City with the Lions hosting the annual Turkey Day game and this year it's a big one for both teams and their NFC North hopes. Two weeks ago, both teams were looking up at the Bears, who were atop the division standings. I don't see three teams from the North making the playoffs, so the loser of this one is going to need a lot of help to reach the post season. The Packers need a big game from QB Jordan Love (2,421 yards, 15 TDs) and hope running back Josh Jacobs (648 yards, 11 TDs) is fully recovered from a knee injury he suffered two weeks ago against the Giants. Love will need help from a suspect receiving corps led by Romeo Dobbs (39 receptions, 489 yards, 4 TDS). The Lions do not have a shortage of offensive weapons led by QB Jared Goff (2,490 yards, 21 TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (732 rushing yards, 8 TDs/37 receptions, 334 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (66 receptions, 735 yards, 8 TDs). Look for the Lions offense to be on before a national TV audience. My pick, Detroit 30, Green Bay 24

Kansas City at Dallas - The second game of the Thanksgiving triple header has the Chiefs visiting the Cowboys in a game both teams desperately need to remain alive in their respective conferences playoff picture. Two weeks ago, KC fell to 5-5 on the season and three games behind Denver in the AFC West after their 22-19 loss in the Mile High City. While KC was losing, the Cowboys eased to a 33-16 win over the Raiders on Monday Night Football. Dallas QB Dak Prescott (2,687 yards, 21 TDs) threw four TDs in the Vegas win. He will need a big day from running back Javonte Williams (809 yards, 9 total TDs), wide receivers George Pickens (58 receptions, 908 yards, 7 TDs) and CeeDee Lamb (40 receptions, 557 yards, 2 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (60 receptions, 400 yards, 7 TDs). KC QB Patrick Mahomes (2,625 yards, 18 TDs) should have a big day against a suspect Dallas defense. Look for him to make a lot of plays to tight end Travis Kelce (50 receptions, 631 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Marquise Brown (38 receptions, 429 yards, 4 TDs). The Chiefs play well when their backs are against the wall and that's definitely the case for Andy Reid's team at this point in the season. My pick, Kansas City 31, Dallas 29

Chicago at Philadelphia - The Bears will get a true measure of just how good they really are when they head to Philadelphia to take on the defending Super Bowl champs on Friday. Two weeks ago, Chicago improved to 7-3 and took over first place in the NFC North with their win at Minnesota, while the Philly defense stepped up once again to lead the Eagles to a 16-9 home win over Detroit. Chicago QB Caleb Williams (2,329 yards, 13 TDs) will face his toughest test yet and will need

Cistern Illuminated Returns to Buffalo Bayou Park

The underground art installation that adds an ethereal glow to the holiday season



WHAT

Cistern Illuminated opens November 28, 2025 and runs through January 18, 2026.

WHO

Presented by Buffalo Bayou Partnership

WHEN

November 28, 2025 - January 18, 2026
Tours offered Wednesday - Sunday on the hour at 10 and 11 a.m. and 1, 2, 3, and 5 p.m.

WHERE

Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern
105-B Sabine St.

REGISTRATION

Tickets for Cistern Illuminated can be reserved here.
Tickets for Ring in the Peace performances can be reserved here.

MORE INFORMATION

Free parking is available for media and guests in The Water Works parking lot adjacent to the Cistern and street parking along Sabine St.

Paid parking is available in City Lot H (1643 Memorial Dr.), just across Sabine St. from The Water Works.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES



FRIDAY

C. E. King 51, Alvin Shadow Creek 6
North Shore 31, Fort Bend Ridge Point 7

THIS WEEK'S PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

6A, DIV. 1, REGION III QUARTERFINALS

North Shore (10-2) vs. Cypress Falls (9-3), Friday at 2 p.m., TDECU Stadium, 3700 Cullen Blvd, Houston, TX 77204 on the campus of the University of Houston.

6A, DIV. 2, REGION III QUARTERFINALS

C.E. King (10-2) vs. Katy Jordan, Friday night at 2 p.m., Rhodes Stadium, 1733 Katyland Dr, Katy, TX 77493.

be the deciding factor in this game. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 31, Carolina 24

Buffalo at Pittsburgh

The Bills head to Pittsburgh to take on a Steelers team that could be without starting QB Aaron Rodgers (1,969 yards, 19 TDs). Rodgers sustained a broken wrist two weeks ago in the Steelers home win over the Bengals, and if he's out, Pittsburgh could be in trouble, especially when its defense has to take on Bills QB Josh Allen (2,454 passing yards, 18 TDs/351 rushing yards, 10 TDs). Two weeks ago in their 44-32 win over Tampa Bay, Allen ran for three TDs and passed for another three. He will get help from running back James Cook (968 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Khalil Shakir (46 receptions, 454 yards, 3 TDs). The Bills need this one to keep pace with the Patriots in the AFC East, so look for Buffalo to pick up a big road win on Sunday. My pick, Buffalo 30, Pittsburgh 23

Denver at Washington

This week's Sunday Night Football game is sort of blah as the high-flying Broncos visit the struggling Commanders. Washington has been beset by key injuries, none bigger than the dislocated elbow starting QB Jaden Daniels suffered three weeks ago. Denver has been playing well on defense

and doing just enough to sit atop the AFC West standings. Look for QB Bo Nix (2,421 passing yards, 18 TDs/213 rushing yards, 3 TDs) to have a big night against a suspect Washington defense. He will get help from rookie running back Rd Harvey (244 yards, 2 TDS) and wide receiver Courtland Sutton (45 receptions, 659 yards, 4 TDs). My pick, Denver 26, Washington 12

New York Giants at New England

Week 13 concludes with Monday Night Football as a bad Giants team heads to Foxborough to take on the Patriots, who have become THE surprise team this season. NE leads the AFC West with a 9-2 record and looks like a very good football team on both sides of the football. Second-year QB Drake Maye (2,836 yards, 20 TDs/285 rushing yards, 2 TDs) is having a breakout season and he's getting help from rookie running back TreVeyon Henderson (492 yards, 6 total TDs) and veteran wideout Stefon Diggs (59 receptions, 659 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the NE defense to make it a long night for rookie Giants QB Jaxson Dart (1,417 passing yards, 10 TDs/317 rushing yards, 7 TDs) as the Pats roll to another win. My pick, New England 33, New York Giants 12

Baytown reviews election procedures following ballot complaints,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing for election judges. "It's an internal review of procedures and seeing what Harris County can collaborate with," he explained. Despite the concerns, officials emphasized that none of the races were decided by three votes, and no complaints were received about the bond question on the ballot. "When people say it's

widespread, we don't have anything to prove that. If we only had three complaints, that's all we can point to and address." The city's focus remains on addressing concerns and strengthening public trust in the electoral process. "It's our focus not to assign blame, but to address concerns and strengthen the public trust in the elec-

toral process, which is a challenge when people are nervous. But the elections were canvassed and certified unanimously," at Thursday's council meeting Calder said. For more details or official statements, contact the Baytown city clerk's office or Harris County election officials.

Start times at Crosby about to change amidst mixed reaction from parents,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sense to have high school start later. Older kids can get ready for school by themselves, get on the bus independently, drive, instead of relying on parents like middle schoolers. The middle school parents that work that take their kids to school or wait at bus stops will now have to adjust their work schedules/arrive late. Makes no sense. What's the reasoning for middle school to start later?" she asked in a Facebook post.

Superintendent Dr. Paula Patterson addressed the community in a statement, emphasizing that the decision was not made lightly.

The district conducted a community survey to gather input and opinions on the possibility of new start times.

According to the district, the results showed 45 percent of respondents supported making the change in January, while 44 percent preferred waiting until the next school year.

Patterson, in an earlier school board meeting, said upwards to 2,000 students per day were tardy to classes.

"We are a growing district and are experiencing

growing pains. Student enrollment has significantly increased, there is a statewide bus driver shortage, and here in Crosby/Barrett, the road infrastructure is lagging behind growth. We are greatly challenged in getting students to school in a timely manner and it is impacting their instructional time," the district said in a statement to the Star-Courier.

According to numbers from the Texas Education Agency in Austin, Crosby's enrollment in 2014 was 5,451. Ten years later, that number has increased to 7,046, an increase of 1,595 or an average of 159.5 students per year.

"With opinions nearly split (on the survey), the urgency of the issue led us to move forward with a January implementation," Patterson explained in a YouTube video.

She acknowledged the challenges, especially for middle school families, and apologized for the inconvenience.

"I understand this change will greatly impact families and staff, especially at Crosby Middle School, and I sincerely apologize for the inconvenience. Please know this decision comes from a place of deep

care and commitment to our students. My heart is focused on ensuring every child is in their seat, ready for instruction when the bell rings," she added.

Implementation Timeline

The district has outlined key dates for the transition:

Nov. 7: Skyward opened for transportation changes; families must communicate any needs by Dec. 1.

Dec. 15: New bus routes and times will be available in the MyRide App.

Jan. 6: The new schedule goes into effect for all campuses.

Looking Ahead

On Monday night, the board of trustees approved a \$1.50 per hour pay raise for bus drivers to improve competitiveness with nearby districts. Board member Jennifer Roach was the only one advocating for a higher increase.

As the implementation date approaches, Crosby ISD families are bracing for significant adjustments. The district urges parents to review the timeline and communicate any transportation needs promptly to ensure a smooth transition.

CUIC Christmas fundraiser shatters record



Plenty of Activity at the CUIC Fundraiser. A new Record was set for Donations and Sales for the Holidays.

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Churches United In Caring (CUIC) celebrated a record-breaking success at their annual Christmas fundraiser, drawing an enthusiastic crowd and raising vital funds to support local families in need. The event, held at the Crosby Methodist Church, featured the sale of festive decor, ornaments, Christmas trees, and a visit from Santa Claus, creating a joyful atmosphere for all who attended.

Lockwood noted the growing need in the community. "The price of food has increased since just the 1st quarter of 2024. We're seeing an uptick in clients because of that. This year, it's much more challenging for us," she said.

Volunteers from local schools and organizations, including the Leo's Club, Crosby High School baseball team, and CHATA from the Atascocita area homeschool group, pitched in to make the event a success. The Leo Club also hosted a bake sale to raise scholarship funds.

Lockwood emphasized the importance of donations for older teens, who receive gift cards to area fast food restaurants instead of toys. "We always struggle to get enough items donated for older teens. Right now, we haven't met our goal for gift cards. If anyone would like to donate fast food gift cards, we would certainly accept those. When kids leave school, 90 percent of them head straight to Sonic or Whataburger to hang out. Fast food gift cards make sure the kids get to

use them."

CUIC will continue to provide assistance for rental, food, and utility bills to established clients through December, with the store closing for Christmas distribution on December 13 and reopening January 5. Lockwood encourages the community to participate in Giving Tuesday and consider end-of-year donations.

"There are multiple ways to give—online, by mail, or in person. We do give receipts for donations, and as a 501C3 nonprofit, it's a great way to support your community and receive a tax deduction."

With the generosity of donors and volunteers, Churches United In Caring is set to make this holiday season brighter for hundreds of local families.

To learn more about the history and mission of Churches United In Caring, to donate or check out their hours of operation, visit their website at www.cuiccrosby.org, or call 281-328-3178. They are located at 944 Church Street in Crosby.



Two students from the CHATA group of homeschoolers assists with the Christmas fundraiser for Churches United In Caring at the Crosby Methodist Church last Saturday.

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.



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



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

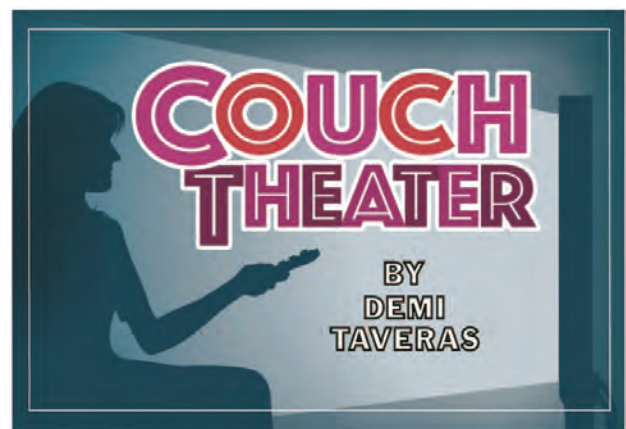


FILL DIRT
BANK SAND
ROADBASE
LIMESTONE
 119 Listi Ln, Highlands hillmaterials.com
WE DELIVER TO YOU
(281) 843-5000
residential • commercial • industrial

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



From left, Gaten Matarazzo, Finn Wolfhard, Caleb McLaughlin and Noah Schnapp star in "Stranger Things: Season 5."

"Stranger Things: Season 5"

"STRANGER THINGS: SEASON 5, VOLUME 1" (TV-14) — The hit Netflix series that began in 2016 is finally reaching its culmination with its fifth season, which premieres on Nov. 26. Although the season will be released in volumes, with the second volume premiering Christmas Day and the finale on New Year's Eve, fans are excited to see how their favorite characters' stories will conclude after so many years of being invested in the series. Picking up a year after the events of the fourth season, the season starts during the fall of 1987 after the "Rifts" have been opened in Hawkins, and our favorite group of misfits are preparing for battle against Vecna. Meanwhile, the military seeks to capture Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) again in Hawkins. Get ready for lots of action, tense scenes, and heart-

ache. Let's see how "Stranger Things" ends! (Netflix)

"MALICE" (TV-MA) — This new psychological-thriller series starring Jack Whitehall ("Robots") and David Duchovny ("Adam the First") just premiered its first season, and all six episodes are out now to binge! Whitehall plays Adam Healey, a tutor/nanny who signs on to accompany a wealthy family during their vacation. Although Adam seems kind, nurturing and helpful in the beginning, his aura puts some of the family on edge as they can't seem to figure him out. But when the patriarch of the family, Jamie (Duchovny), watches his life begin to unravel, he realizes that somebody is out to get him. What he doesn't realize is that the culprit might be under his own roof. (Amazon Prime Video)

"BRIDE HARD" (R) — Rebel Wilson ("Juliet & Romeo") and Anna Camp ("A Little Prayer") are teaming up together again after their "Pitch Perfect" days together for this action-comedy film releasing on Nov. 28. The film picks up as maid of honor Sam (Wilson) is trying her best to fulfill her duties to her best friend, Betsy (Camp), but neither her best friend nor the bridal party know that Sam is actually a secret agent. Sam's hidden secret-agent activities cause tension with the rest of the bridal party, but even after her planned bachelorette party goes wrong, Sam still wants to support Betsy. Fast forward to the wedding, where killer mercenaries show up to steal from Betsy's fiance's family, and Sam might be the only one who could save her best friend's wedding day. This pick is perfect for a night in with the girls or those looking for an easy watch. (Hulu)

"THE FAMILY PLAN 2" (PG-13) — Surprisingly, Mark Wahlberg's 2023 film "The Family Plan" was greenlit for a sequel with Michelle Monaghan ("The White Lotus") returning, as well as Zoe Colletti and Van Crosby, who portray Wahlberg and Monaghan's children in the movie. Similar to the first movie, the Morgan family are attempting to live a normal life amid Dan's (Wahlberg) past as an assassin. They travel to London for Christmas so that they can spend the holidays with their daughter who is abroad, but Dan encounters someone from his past — a man named Aidan (Kit Harrington) who is determined to take over the network of assassins that Dan's father built. So, it's time for the Morgans to once again put their family plans on hold and get down to some dirty business. Out now. (Apple TV+)



- 1. Now You See Me: Now You Don't (PG-13) Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson
2. The Running Man (R) Glen Powell, Alyssa Bena
3. Predator: Badlands (PG-13) Elle Fanning, Dimitrios Schuster-Koloamatangi
4. Regretting You (PG-13) Allison Williams, McKenna Grace
5. Black Phone 2 (R) Mason Thames, Ethan Hawke
6. Keeper (R) Tatiana Maslany, Rossif Sutherland
7. Nuremberg (PG-13) Russell Crowe, Michael Shannon
8. Sarah's Oil (PG-13) Zachary Levi, Naya Desir-Johnson
9. Bugonia (R) Jesse Plemons, Aidan Delbis
10. Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc (R) Kikunosuke Toya, Tomori Kusunoki

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



A happy Thanksgiving starts with pets' safety and comfort

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Please remind your readers, as the holiday season begins, to keep a close eye on their pets. Many of our favorite foods at Thanksgiving and Christmas contain ingredients that are poisonous to dogs and cats. Holiday gatherings with lots of family and friends can be really stressful for them, too. — Larry in Secaucus, New Jersey

DEAR LARRY: You're absolutely right, and thank you for sending this reminder along. Dogs and cats alike will be attracted to all of the delicious aromas coming from the kitchen this week. Turkey, gravy and lots of side dishes will smell irresistible.

But owners should know that it's not just chocolate that is dangerous for pets to ingest. Onions, garlic, chives, avocados, grapes (and raisins) can all be deadly. Sugar substitutes, especially xylitol, are also very dangerous. Coffee and caffeinated drinks, like chocolate, contain a chemical that causes illness, seizures and even death. A complete list can be found here: www.aspc.org/pet-care/aspca-poison-control/people-foods-avoid-feeding-your-pets.

Here are some ways to keep your pet safe during holiday preparation and gatherings.

Create a safe space for your pets: a quiet room away from all the bustle and noise. Fill it with their favorite toys, food and water, and a cozy place to curl up and relax. If you crate your dog, place their crate in this "safe room" a few days before the gathering.

Wall off the kitchen: Put up baby gates in front of each entrance while you're preparing food. Keep a close eye on pets: Have a family member monitor your pets while preparations are underway.

Give them attention and cuddles. Before and after the big gathering, spend time with your pets. They'll settle back into their home routine afterward much more easily.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

2025 HOLIDAY SHIPPING DEADLINES

Between the astronomical rise in online shopping and workforce shortages, it's more important than ever to mail and ship early!

Table with shipping deadlines for U.S. Postal Service, UPS, and FedEx. Columns include service type, deadline, and contact info.

© 2025 King Features Syndicate

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by Bud Blake

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

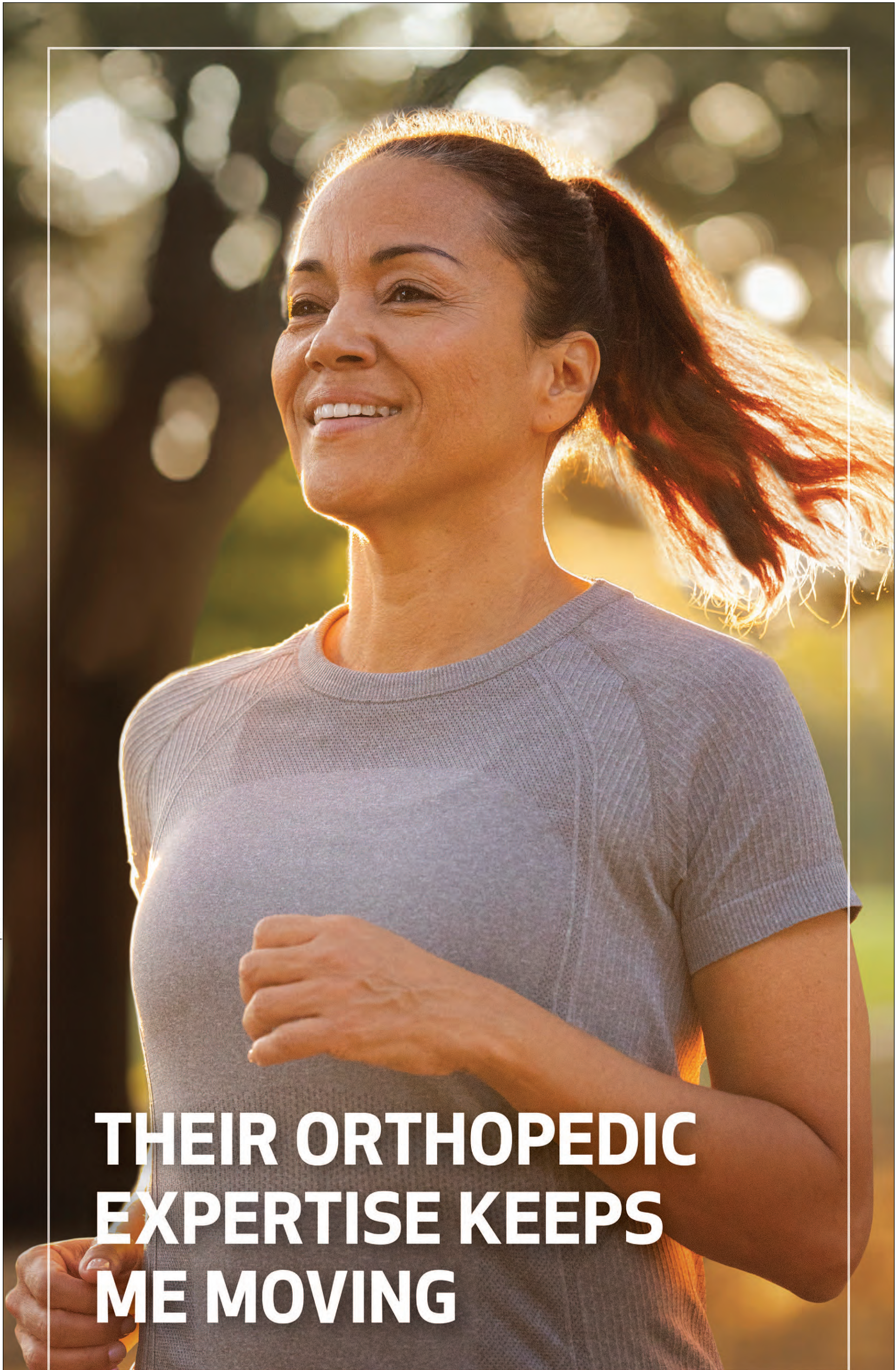
Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging.

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle with two panels and instructions to find differences.

November 24, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Trivia test with 10 questions covering literature, movies, geography, history, and general knowledge.

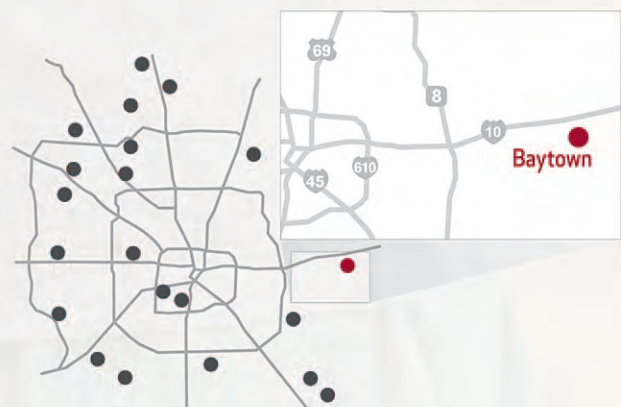


THEIR ORTHOPEDIC EXPERTISE KEEPS ME MOVING

When an injury puts you on the sidelines, your Houston Methodist orthopedic team puts expertise into play. We'll customize a minimally invasive treatment plan to get you back out there — doing the things you love.

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

houstonmethodist.org/orthopedics
281.427.7400



OFFICIAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER