



HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber January Luncheon

Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (Location: 604 Highland Woods Drive.

The luncheon will feature a presentation by Harris Health Center, as the Chamber kicks off its first event of the year and welcomes community members and business leaders.

Ticket can be purchased at allabouthighlands.org

Crosby-Huffman Chamber January Luncheon

Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 11:30 p.m. at the Brethren Church.

Speaker: State Representative Briscoe Cain.

Rotary plans 51st Annual Chili Feast Feb. 7

Raffle winner gets a new 2026 car

HIGHLANDS – The Rotary Club is preparing to hold their 51st Annual Chili Feast, on Saturday, February 7, 2026. A chili meal will be served from 11 am to 3 pm or until the chili runs out, according to Chili Feast chairman Connie Russell. A live auction will take place starting at Noon as well as a silent auction.

The event is being held at the St. Jude's Catholic Church social hall on Main Street in Highlands. The club president, Patricia Scott, invites the whole commu-



Winner of the Chili Feast Raffle will have their choice of a 2026 Chevy Trailblazer or a 2026 Chevy Trax SUV, from Turner Chevrolet.

nity to participate in this event, which benefits Rotary projects throughout the year.

The club members are continuing to sell raffle tickets. There are 700 tickets available for a \$100 donation. A ticket entitles you to two bowls of "Chester's Famous Recipe" chili, and a

chance to win one of 17 raffle prizes, all worth more than the \$100 ticket price.

Club members are also selling Chili lunches only, for \$10. Great for extra hungry folks, or to take home for later.

This annual event is a high point for many in

the community, who see their friends at least this one time each year, and catch up with stories. It also has great food, and quality auction items.

Raffle prizes this year include gift cards, a 32" smart television, portable ice maker, Air Compressor/battery charger, Beats Solo 3 wireless

headphones, a \$200 Gift Card, an air fryer, a 65 qt. Artic cooler, a shotgun, a 28" Black Stone Cooker, a \$200 Gift Card, an outdoor Propane Fire Pit, a 22-250 Rifle, a 55" Smart TV, and of course the grand prize, a new Chevrolet vehicle, the winner's choice of a 2026 Chevy Trailblazer or a 2026 Chevy Trax SUV.

The Highlands Rotary Club uses the proceeds from the Chili Feast for community projects, such as scholarships, library, and fire department, as well as scouts and other organizations. Last year they built and donated an outdoor classroom to Continued. See ROTARY CHILI FEAST, Page 6

Joy and Generosity Shine at 27th Crosby Children's Fest

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 27th annual Children's Festival with a day filled with laughter, community spirit, and holiday cheer. Hosted at Crosby Church, the event brought together families, businesses, and organizations for a festive occasion that truly embodied the spirit of giving.

Velma Ellison, president and executive director of the Chamber, reflected on the festival's purpose. "The whole purpose of the Christmas festival is really for the chamber and the businesses to give back to the community at Christmas time, and I think that we were very successful in doing that today. It showed in all the children's faces and their happiness, and

Continued. See FAMILIES TURN OUT FOR ANNUAL, Page 6



Wholesome Eats and This And That combined for a booth offering food and crafts thanks to Ashley Cobb and Jennifer Singletary.



Alejandra Torres of Art Face Body Painting was making kids happy with her special talent of face painting.



Two-year-old Willow Minx from Crosby was enjoying the sights and sounds of the day.



Austen Reid of Crosby Tae Kwon-do was showing off some moves and recruiting new students.



Santa Claus makes his arrival at the Children's Festival escorted by chamber officials and the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department.



Crafted With Love was at the Children's Festival with owners and friends Patrick Connolly, Adison Autry, and Arian Ivy, and Audrey Autry.

Crosby Officially "Lit Up" with new Street Lights

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Promises made, promises delivered. On Friday night, the switch was pulled and FM 2100 received a major upgrade in lighting when approximately 58 new streetlights were turned on and the shadows and dark areas exposed.

"On behalf of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce, we are excited to announce the official installation of the new Community Street Light Program," said Velma Ellison, chairman of the board with the chamber.

"Today marks an important step towards improving safety, visibility, and pride throughout our business corridors and neighborhoods. These new streetlights represent more than infrastructure," she said. Ellison said they

Continued. See NEW STREETLIGHTS BRIGHTEN SAFETY, VISIBILITY, Page 6



CenterPoint crews were up and down FM 2100 all last week working on adding 58 new streetlights.

Crosby HS Varsity Band Brings Holiday Cheer to Galleria



Photos courtesy of Kevin Knight's Twitter account.

By Kristan Hoffman
On Thursday, December 18, 2025, the Crosby High School varsity band wind ensemble, led by Director Kevin Knight, played an hour-long set of holiday songs at the Gal-

leria Mall in central Houston. The cheery music included well-known classics such as "Joy to the World" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," among others. With the powerful orchestral notes carrying

throughout the atrium to all corners of the mall, it's no wonder that a crowd of onlookers soon gathered around the students, smiling, clapping, and taking

Continued. See VARSITY CROSBY HS BAND, Page 6

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Dr. Gerald Cobb Leaves a Legacy of Leadership in Education and Banking

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

In the tapestry of the North Channel area's history, few figures loom as large as Dr. Gerald Dallas Cobb who recently passed away on December 17, 2025. From humble beginnings in New Diana, Texas, Cobb's journey is a testament to perseverance, vision, and service.

"One of the highlights of my life was my graduation from Baylor University," Cobb reflected in a 2010 interview with The Sentinel, recalling how a young country boy found a path to success through education.

After earning his degree, Cobb began his career as a high school athlete and educator, applying for a teaching job in Mineral Wells. There, he found mentorship in W.C. Cunningham, who "would be like a father to him and guide him through most of his professional life." Cobb credited Cunningham for helping him secure pivotal roles, including his first job and later a position in Galena Park ISD.

"I have applied for only two jobs in my professional life," Cobb said. "The others some might say were handed to me, but I earned them in every way."

His career in education flourished, spanning Min-



Dr. Gerald Dallas Cobb passed away peacefully on Dec. 17, 2025 after leaving a legacy in education and banking.

eral Wells, Beaumont High, and Galena Park ISD, where he rose from basketball coach to business manager, assistant superintendent, and ultimately superintendent. "I owe a great deal to W.C.," Cobb emphasized. "He helped me get each of those jobs in GPISD."

Even after reaching the pinnacle of educational leadership, Cobb sought new challenges. Facing the lack of Social Security in public schools, he began teaching at the University of Houston to qualify for benefits. But another mentor, Clyde Speed, offered a solution: "He told me, 'You don't have to do that, I'll put you on here at the bank for \$1,000 per month and you'll qualify for Social Security.'"

Cobb joined Woodforest National Bank in 1984, initially handling public



Gerald Cobb, first one on the left, second row, played for the Baylor University Bears and his team made it to the Final Four on one trip, and to the college Final on another. Cobb credited the experience as one of the most memorable of his life.

relations.

"I really felt like I earned it," he said. His tenure saw him amass 132 quarters for Social Security, and after Speed's passing, Cobb became chairman of the board and later CEO. He praised his successor, Robert Marling: "Robert's the kind of guy who not only knows what to do but has the courage to do it."

Under Cobb's stewardship, Woodforest National Bank grew to over 700 branches nationwide, many in Walmarts.

"Eighty-eight percent of our revenue comes out of operations. We're not dependent on loans," Cobb explained. "We didn't buy

any of that exotic paper... I wouldn't buy it unless it was guaranteed by the U.S. government and I could look in the Wall Street Journal and see it every day," he smiled.

Bank examiners dubbed their holdings "a Dr. Cobb portfolio," recognizing his conservative approach. During that time, Woodforest National Bank stood as the No. 1 earning bank in America based on equity, a tribute Cobb attributes to the founders from the North Shore community of Woodforest.

Cobb's impact extended beyond banking and education. He was honored with the Kermit Rneau

Lifetime Achievement Award by the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I am truly humbled by it," Cobb said. "I have nothing but admiration for him and his loyalty to this community."

Reflecting on his life, Cobb credited his success to faith, family, and service.

"Basketball was my ticket to Baylor," he said, noting the influence of coaches and his wife, Bobbi. "I could think of a lot of words that went with education: budgets, buildings and books, but I wanted it to be kind of a joke with her," he shared, referencing his time under

Lorena B. Stretch at Baylor.

For over 40 years, Cobb taught the Adult Men's Bible Class at First Baptist Church in Galena Park, remaining a pillar of the community.

"It helps keep you on target in life," he said. "It's been a great life."

As he approached his 81st birthday, Cobb reflected, "My mark was to try and make 80. When you make that then you want to make another year." The superintendent/banker made it to 96 and left a legacy woven into the fabric of the North Channel area of leadership, integrity, and enduring service.

Families turn out for annual Chamber Children's festival,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

so it was a great event, and we're very happy."

This year's festival saw an impressive turnout, with well over 400 children attending. Santa Claus made a special appearance, delighting young guests who eagerly lined up for photos. The Chamber and its sponsors ensured that every child was treated to complimentary hot dogs—nearly 500 served—along with popcorn, water, and potato chips. Bouncy houses and games kept the energy high, while a petting zoo featuring Highlands cows, goats, pigs, and fluffy chickens provided memorable hands-on experiences.

The event was made possible through the generosity of local businesses and Chamber members. "We do appreciate all the sponsors for the event, and our primary sponsor was LyondellBasell (LYB), and they were the big sponsor overall," noted Velma Ellison. "Our grand marshal (LYB) and many other businesses chamber members sponsored different things that allowed us to have the petting zoo, face painting, bouncy houses, and all the free things that cost money. Our businesses pitched in and sponsored all these different things so that the chamber could do this, because the chamber is a non-profit, and we completely depend



Nichole Koval and Tina Thomason of Southern Cactus Creation were showing off their wares at the annual Children's Festival.



Claudia Washington of Atascocita showed off her talent and company, Beaded Soul.



Sahira Palomo and Dulce Hernandez of Elite Sales were interacting with customers throughout the day at the Children's Festival.



JLA Realty was working the food booth with volunteers Deanna Becker, Kaydnce Powell, Savannah Davila, Sloan Davila, and Kim Davila. 121525 CHCOChildrensFestival 15 - Ooohs and Aahs owner Irma Stichter was busy showing off her goodies to visitors at her booth.



Ooohs and Aahs owner Irma Stichter was busy showing off her goodies to visitors at her booth.



Tina Jordan and her son Matthew of Sip On This were mixing up all kinds of drinks for attendees.


upon our members for their good graces and helping us make things happen."

While the focus was on giving rather than fundraising, the Chamber emphasized gratitude for the support received. Ellison said the festival's success was measured not in dollars, but in the joy and smiles of the children and families who attended.

As the day came to a close, the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce reaffirmed its commitment to community, ensuring that the holiday season was brighter for everyone involved with the annual Christmas Parade down FM 2100.

Ellison thanked Tiffany Muller, chairman of the festival committee, Deanna Becker and Debra Roberts, membership and communication directors, chamber members and volunteers who made the magic happen.

Sponsors for the event included Dove Shipping International (Christmas Market), Crosby Church (Venue), AZ Auto Insurance (Santa photos), Lift-High Crane and Rigging (Cotton Candy), Alliance Properties (Parade), Crosby Christian Academy (Popcorn), Courtyard by Marriott (Food), JLA Realty (Refreshment), ESI Fire Security (Petting Zoo), and Community Resource Credit Union (Goody bags).



Art By Mei

This Artwork is on Display at the Silos Studio of Mei Hoffman, 1502 Sawyer Street.
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Mont Belvieu Kicks off Holiday Season with 2025 Christmas on The Hill Parade & Parade Awards

By Gerardo Hernandez,

Stillness in the Season

By Dr. Mark Trice

December can be overwhelming. Take a calendar packed with events, throw in blinking lights, Christmas music set on repeat, and of course that all-important Christmas list. No wonder it's a stressful season for many. But it shouldn't be. The only thing that should be burning out in December is the fire in your fireplace.

Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." This isn't just a suggestion. It's a command and a promise that echoes throughout Scripture.

In Exodus 14:14, Moses tells the people to hold their peace and let God fight for them. God, in Isaiah 30:15, tells rebellious Israel, "...In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength..." Israel refused the offer and followed their own plan, but we can accept it. And in 1 Kings 19:11, when Elijah desperately needed to hear from God, the answer didn't come in the wind or the earthquake but in a gentle whisper.

The first Christmas wasn't quiet either. Bethlehem was crowded: The roads were packed, the cattle noisy, tempers short and there weren't enough beds. A pregnant woman gave birth in a stable. You have to wonder how many slept in the streets.

Though everything outside was likely in chaos, God created stillness in that stable. And Heaven came down in the quiet of the night. Few were there to witness the arrival of the King, but those who were heard God whisper through a newborn's soft sigh. Sacred moments can be missed if we're not paying attention.

Every December we face the question. Will we stop? Will we make room for Him?

Will we listen for God's whisper? If not, we may miss His voice in the noise and fail to experience the peace our souls crave. We don't find stillness. We create it by stopping and saying, "God, this time is for you." How?

Avoid the Noise: Take breaks from social media, phones, and non-essential obligations.

Create Space: Set aside at least a few minutes every day to focus on God.

Listen Intentionally: Don't just talk. Ask God what's on His heart.

Obey: If He tells you to do something, do it - even if the task is uncomfortable or inconvenient.

God isn't impressed by productivity. He wants you, not what you can produce. He wants to fellowship with you. Not just about life-changing things, but also the seemingly unimportant things any child might discuss with his father.

Stillness isn't weakness or laziness. It's strength in surrender. True peace isn't found wrapped and under the tree. It's found in the presence of the Prince of Peace: Jesus Christ.

So this December, don't just celebrate His birth. Be still. Listen for Him.

MONT BELVIEU, TX — The holiday season officially arrived in Mont Belvieu as residents gathered for the 2025 Christmas on the Hill Parade, an event that brought together families, local organizations, businesses, and community leaders in a festive celebration of Christmas spirit and hometown pride.

The annual parade served as a joyful kickoff to the season, drawing large crowds who lined the streets to watch a colorful procession of floats, decorated vehicles, and holiday-themed entries make their way through the heart of the city. Smiling faces, Christmas music, and seasonal decorations created a warm and welcoming atmosphere, reflecting the strong sense of community that defines Mont Belvieu.

City officials and event organizers expressed their gratitude to everyone who helped make the parade a success. From parade participants to volunteers and spectators, the event showcased the collective effort and enthusiasm of the entire community.

"Christmas on the Hill is about bringing people together," organizers said. "Seeing families, neighbors, and visitors celebrating side by side is what makes this parade so special every year."

Each parade entry contributed to the festive spirit, with participants showcasing creativity, holiday cheer, and attention to detail. While every group played an important role in making the event memorable, judges also recognized those who went above and beyond. Winners of the 2025 Christmas on the Hill Parade were announced following the event, honoring outstanding entries for their creativity, presentation, and holiday spirit.

Spectators responded with cheers and applause as floats passed by, many waving to participants and



Overall Best Entry: "Best in the Barn" Awarded to the most outstanding entry overall, capturing the spirit of a country Christmas at its finest.



Judge's Choice: "Rancher's Choice" A special nod from the judges to an entry that stands out in a uniquely folksy or heartwarming way.



Best Embodies Theme: "Down-Home Holiday Spirit" For the entry that perfectly embodies the cozy, rustic charm of a country Christmas.



Most Unique Design: "Blue Ribbon Standout" Given to the entry with the most creative, handcrafted, and visually striking holiday display.



Most Crowd Engagement / Applause: "Boot-Stompin' Crowd Pleaser" For the entry that gets everyone clapping, cheering, and two-steppin' along the roadside.



Unexpected Twist: "Country Christmas Surprise" Awarded to the float that delivered an unexpected, delightful twist worthy of a holiday hoedown



Most Festive: "Good Ol' Yuletide Cheer" Celebrating the float that brings pure, heartfelt merriment to the parade route.

snapping photos to capture the moment. For children, the parade offered a magical experience filled with lights, costumes, and the excitement of the Christmas season. For longtime residents, it continued a cherished tradition that has become a highlight of the city's holiday calendar.

The parade also reflected the strong partnerships among local organizations, businesses, and civic groups that work together year after year to ensure

the event's success. Organizers credited that teamwork as a key reason the parade continues to grow and thrive.

As the final float passed and the streets slowly cleared, one thing was clear: the 2025 Christmas on the Hill Parade once again delivered a memorable start to the holidays.

With community spirit on full display, Mont Belvieu set the tone for a season filled with celebration, generosity, and togetherness.

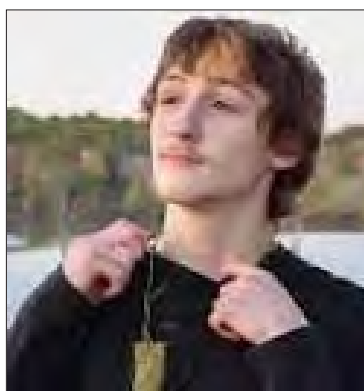
Medical Examiner Releases Cause in Sterling HS Stabbing Death

BAYTOWN, TX — Authorities have released new details in the deadly stabbing at Sterling High School that left a Baytown teenager dead and sent shockwaves through the Goose Creek CISD community.

According to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, 16-year-old Andrew Meisner died from a stab wound to the neck, ruling the death a homicide. The incident occurred inside a classroom on campus, where a confrontation between two students escalated into violence.

An 18-year-old student, identified as Aundre Matthews, has been charged with murder in connection with the stabbing. Investigators say the altercation began during class and involved a dispute that quickly turned physical. Emergency crews responded to the scene, and Meisner was transported to a nearby hospital, where he later died from his injuries.

Court records indicate Matthews was taken into custody and re-



16-year-old Andrew Meisner

mains jailed on a \$3 million bond. Officials have not disclosed a motive, but reports indicate the argument may have stemmed from a disagreement over a vaping device.

School officials emphasized there was no ongoing threat to students or staff and have since increased security measures. Counseling services continue to be made available as the community mourns the loss of a young life.

Baytown Officer Indicted in High-Speed Crash That Killed Two Brothers

BAYTOWN, TX — New details have emerged in the investigation of a deadly crash involving a Baytown police officer that claimed the lives of two young brothers and injured other members of their family.

A Harris County grand jury has indicted Baytown Police Officer Michael Hightower on two counts of manslaughter in the deaths of 10-year-old Jude Russell and 8-year-old Ryver Russell, as well as one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for the serious injury of their older sister.

The crash occurred on Oct. 23 at the intersection of West Baker Road and Country Club Drive, when Hightower's marked patrol vehicle collided with a minivan carrying six family members. Initial findings indicated Hightower had a green



Officer Michael Hightower

light and the right-of-way while responding to an in-progress call. However, investigators later recovered vehicle data showing the officer was traveling approximately 95 mph in a 40 mph zone, with no emergency lights or sirens activated.

Court records state the excessive speed reduced the mother's ability to react as she attempted to turn at the intersection. Surveillance video captured police vehicles rushing to the scene, where debris and children's belongings were scattered. The two boys died five days later.

Hightower posted a \$150,000 bond and remains on medical leave. His first court appearance is scheduled for next month. He has served with the Baytown Police Department since January 2024.

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OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING

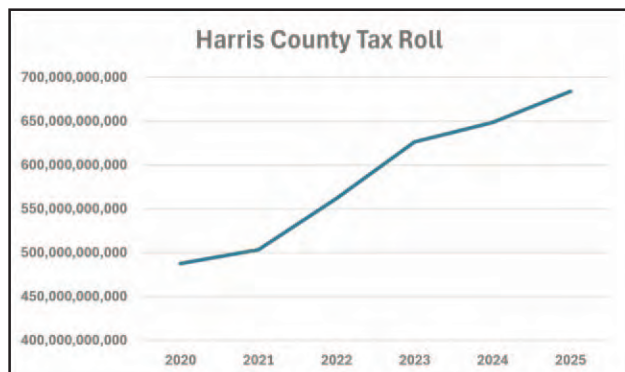


Harris County Tax Roll Up by 6% ... for Now

The Harris Central Appraisal District (HCAD) has finished adjudicating all but a handful of property accounts. As of today, the countywide taxable value of all properties stands at about \$684 billion.

The final tax roll will not be determined for years because after HCAD completes its administrative adjudication of any protests, the taxpayer can either file suit in District Court or, in some cases, file an arbitration with the State Comptroller's Office.

The growth in the tax roll has definitely slowed from the supercharged increases during the pandemic. In 2021 and 2022, the roll jumped by double digits. The last two years, however, it has returned to mid-single-digit growth.



However, the taxable value is just the first factor in the multiplication that determines your final bill. The other factor is, of course, the tax rate set by the governing body of the taxing entities.

In 2025, just under 20% of taxing entities in Harris County increased their tax rates, while 40% reduced theirs. The remaining entities did not change their rates.

Each one of these taxing entities has its own unique circumstances. For example, Galena Park ISD raised its tax rate by a hefty 6.6%. However, its taxable roll as of HCAD's latest numbers is down by nearly 3%.

Further complicating the calculation this year is that homeowners will benefit from the increased homestead exemption on their property taxes. When you factor all of these together, my guess is that most homeowners will see flat-to slightly lower taxes this year.

But I would love to hear about your experience, so drop me a note about your tax bill this year. email:

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.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Crockett, Talarico to Face off in Democratic Primary

U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, entered the U.S. Senate race on the final day to file, pitting her against state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock.

Crockett, in her second House term, has made a name by attacking both President Donald Trump and other GOP opponents, such as U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene.

Talarico has also gained a large social media audience with a message far less confrontational in nature. He is a Presbyterian seminary student whose Christian faith is a running theme.

"I am called to love all of my neighbors like I love myself, because despite our differences, we all want the same things: a safe neighborhood, a good job, a quality, well-funded public school, and the ability to see a doctor when you need one," he said at his announcement.

The Republican primary also promises to be a spirited race, with incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn facing two challengers: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt, R-Houston.

TAX CUTS MAJOR PART OF ABBOTT'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Gov. Greg Abbott is seeking an unprecedented fourth term and is making property tax cuts the centerpiece of his campaign. He faces 10 largely unknown candidates in the GOP primary and is widely expected to win the nomination.

Abbott wants to make it harder for Texas cities and counties to raise property taxes and has also called for the elimination of school property taxes for homeowners and a slowdown in the rise of property values, according to The Texas Tribune.

Both cities and counties rely heavily on property taxes to pay for services such as public safety, parks, libraries, and road maintenance. Lawmakers in



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

2019 passed tighter limits on how much they can increase property taxes without voter approval.

"Local property taxes are the foundation of essential community services — they keep police and firefighters on duty, streets maintained, and trash collected," said Monty Wynn, who heads the Texas Municipal League.

In recent years, the Legislature has cut school property taxes by billions of dollars, primarily by raising the homestead exemption. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has proposed increasing that exemption by another \$40,000 and allowing homeowners at age 55 to take an additional \$60,000 off their home's taxable value.

TEXAS LEADS NATION IN 12-MONTH JOB GAINS

The state's job market continues to outpace the rest of the nation, according to labor market data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Texas Workforce Commission. The state now has the largest labor force in its history at 15.879 million, gaining 168,000 jobs from September 2024 to September 2025.

"Texas' job market and labor force continue to grow because we have a dynamic workforce system that fosters opportunity for businesses and workers alike," said TWC Chairman Joe Esparza. "TWC will continue to provide the resources and support needed to keep this momentum and ensure that Texas remains a national leader in economic opportunity."

The state's unemployment rate stood at 4.4% in September,

nearly identical to the national rate.

STATE PLAN TO BATTLE SCREW-WORMS FACES PUSHBACK

As the New World Screw-worm makes its way to the Texas-Mexico border, potentially endangering livestock and wildlife, the Texas Animal Health Commission's proposed plan to combat it is facing pushback from agriculture groups, The Tribune reported.

A panel of lawmakers heard from state and federal officials as well as industry groups last week.

"The plan needs significant revision," said Tim Niedecken, executive director of the Livestock Marketing Association of Texas. He said the draft plan would require animals being moved out of an infested zone to have an ear tag, a vet inspection and receive treatment. That does not "meet the realities of this industry today," he told lawmakers.

Dr. Lewis "Bud" Dinges, Texas Animal Health Commission's executive director, said it will likely publish its response plan in about two months. He said the goal is to align with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure their actions do not harm trade.

The USDA is building a sterile fly production facility at Moore Air Base in South Texas and is also assisting with similar efforts in Panama. The screw-worm was detected about 70 miles from the Texas border in September. It infests cattle by laying eggs in open wounds and can be fatal if untreated.

NOVEMBER WAS WARMER AND DRIER THAN NORMAL

A trend that began in August continued through November, with warmer and drier weather throughout much of the state, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. By the end of November, 54% of the state was in drought — up 20 percentage points in about a month.

Wentzel said by the end of next February, drought conditions are expected to improve in the eastern half of the state but get worse in the western half.

South Texas and the Big Bend region of West Texas are experiencing the most severe levels of drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

MORE THAN 4 MILLION REAL CHRISTMAS TREES SOLD IN TEXAS ANNUALLY

Real Christmas trees are an important contributor to the Texas economy, according to Texas A&M Forest Service, with more than 4 million sold each year. That generated a total economic contribution of \$812.7 million and produced more than 6,000 jobs last year.

"Real Christmas trees hold cultural, environmental and economic significance, but the scope of this study was focused specifically on the economic contribution of the real Christmas tree industry," said Xufang Zhang, Ph.D., Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Resource Analyst.

Tree production acreage has increased from 945 acres in 2017 to 3,565 acres in 2022. The average Christmas tree takes about seven years to reach maturity.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

More of The Same



Yesterday I saw a friend, Bridget, whom I had not seen for a full year. "How have you been?" she asked.

"I have learned a lot about myself this year," I told her. But at the time it was hard to say just what I'd learned.

It's the time of year when we think of what we've learned in the year behind us and make resolutions for the new year. I try not to make New Year's resolutions. All the studies show that motivation wanes by February—if we're lucky. Changing my life by flipping a switch on December 31st is not a feasible plan.

But not this year. This year, I'm making a New Year's resolution.

And the only reason I don't think I'm being foolish about the whole thing is that this year, I'm not making a resolution because I feel I've failed at something or need some kind of serious improvement. I'm making a resolution to do more of the same—a lot more.

Because sometimes, as I sift through my life for the things I wish I did better, I miss what really matters. I forget how good my life is—how strong my relationships are, how fortunate I am to have the friends and family I have, how lucky I am to have a mind that still works and a body that does what I need it to do.

This year, for whatever reason, I spent a lot more time doing things I truly enjoy, and I spent a lot less time beating myself up for not doing things I thought I should do.

I decided not to worry too much about what I ate and, instead, ate a lot of things I really love, and—to my surprise—I stayed exactly at the weight my body likes to be. I knew that writing brings me joy, and worrying about what will happen after I've written causes a lot of stress. So I let go. I worried less. And I discovered that worrying less left a lot more time for writing.

I spent more time with friends. I reached out more often. I said "yes" to invitations. I listened to my husband Peter's advice and, if I felt like sleeping in, I did. I talked to more dogs. I ate more cake. I listened to more music.

This year, I just got a little better at living in my own skin, at trusting myself, at letting myself enjoy what I was doing and spend more time doing it.

Since retiring, Bridget has taken up diving. She discovered she has a talent for taking beautiful photos of tiny fish that are seldom seen and almost never photographed. She loves it. She does it whenever she can. She hopes that she might be able to do it for another 20 years. And that is her resolution: to stay healthy enough to keep doing this new thing she loves for as long as she can.

That is my New Year's resolution—and my New Year's revelation as well.

Maybe I work hard enough right now. Maybe I'm healthy enough, fit enough, smart enough today. Maybe the self-improvement projects can be put on indefinite hold to make more time to do all the things I love.

And Bridget and I agreed: We needed to see each other before another year had passed.

Till next time, Carrie

Top Ten Most Popular Christmas Movies of All Time. 1. The Santa Clause 2 (2002), 2. The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (2018), 3. The Santa Clause (1994), 4. The Holiday (2006), 5. Elf (2003), 6. The Polar Express (2004), 7. A Christmas Carol (2009), 8. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000), 9. Home Alone (1990), 10. The Grinch (2018). Source: ScreenCrush

Star Courier advertisement with contact information for Barbers Hill, Dayton, and North Channel Star. Includes staff list: Gilbert Hoffman (Editor & Publisher), Mei-Ing Liu (Associate Publisher), David Taylor (Managing Editor), Julieta Paita (Assignment Editor), Kristan Hoffman (Website Editor), Gerardo Hernandez (Production Manager).

Advertisement for Christmas trees with contact information for Grafikpress. Includes address: 5832 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Phone: 713-266-3444. Email: grafikstar@aol.com.

Texas rings in 2026 with sweeping new laws Immigration, AI, and property taxes lead new changes in Texas law



By David Taylor
Managing Editor

As the sun rose on January 1, 2026, Texans woke up to a slate of 33 new laws reshaping everything from immigration enforcement to artificial intelligence and property taxes. Passed during the 89th Legislative Session, these measures are poised to impact residents and businesses statewide.

Some laws have minor changes while others cleanup existing laws. Lawmakers seemed to target taxes, AI, and immigration.

Immigration Enforcement Tightens

One of the most significant changes is Senate Bill 8, which requires sheriffs in counties operating jails to formally cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the federal 287(g) program. Supporters say the law will improve public safety, while critics warn of increased racial profiling and overpolicing.

Counties participating in the program can apply for state grants ranging from \$80,000 to \$140,000 to help cover costs. However, groups like the ACLU argue the program won't fully cover the associated expenses.

AI Regulation Arrives

Texas is also stepping into the future with House Bill 149, the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act. The law establishes a state framework for AI, bans certain uses—including AI-driven pornography bots and impersonation of minors—and creates the Texas Artificial Intelligence Council to study the impact of regulation.

The law also prohibits AI systems that could encourage self-harm, criminal activity, discrimination, or unauthorized biometric surveillance, giving the Texas Attorney General enforcement authority.

Property Tax Relief and Housing Changes

Homeowners and businesses will see notable tax changes. House Bill 9 raises the business inventory tax exemption from \$2,500 to \$125,000, a move hailed as a win for Texas businesses but expected to reduce local tax revenues by about \$442 million in fiscal year 2027.

Homestead exemptions are also increasing, with up to \$200,000 for those who are disabled or 65 and over. Livestock feed and border-security infrastructure built on private property are now tax exempt. Additionally, new laws limit how cities can raise taxes after natural disasters, requiring the governor's approval—a direct response to Houston's tax hike after Hurricane Beryl.

Senate Bill 38 targets squatters, streamlining eviction procedures and allowing justice courts to schedule hearings within 10 to 21 days. The law restricts courts to ruling strictly on unlawful occupation, tightening notice requirements and enabling summary judgments in clear cases.

"These are commonsense reforms to keep bad things [from] happening to people's homes, and more importantly, to keep people out of property they don't own and they don't have any legitimate right to through a lease," according to bill sponsor Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston in an interview.

However, housing advocates warn the changes could reduce protections for tenants and increase the risk of wrongful evictions.

Digital and Insurance Reforms

Other notable laws include requirements for app stores to verify age and obtain parental consent for minors (though enforcement is currently paused by a federal judge), new insurance transparency rules, and simplified unemployment claims.

As Texas steps into 2026, residents and businesses alike will be navigating a new legal landscape—one shaped by lawmakers' push for safety, innovation, and economic relief.

Below is the full list of the 33 pieces of legislation now in effect as of January 1, 2026:

- HB 22 — Exempts intangible personal property from property (ad valorem) taxes.
- HB 30 — Limits how taxing entities calculate tax rates and raise taxes following a declared disaster.
- HB 149 — Regulates the use of artificial intelligence in Texas and allows civil penalties for violations.
- HB 851 — Changes how residence homesteads receiving tax benefits are counted and reported.
- HB 1244 — Allows land to keep its open-space tax appraisal after ownership transfers if use stays the same.
- HB 1392 — Extends tax payment deadlines if a tax office is closed on the delinquency date.
- HB 2067 — Addresses when insurance policies may be declined, canceled, or not renewed.
- HB 2525 — Exempts certain senior housing owned by charitable organizations from property taxes.
- HB 2723 — Requires an application for property tax exemptions on land used for human burial.
- HB 2742 — Allows property owners to split property tax payments into installments.
- HB 3159 — Creates a severance tax exemption for oil and gas from certain restimulated wells.
- HB 3370 — Allows late timber land tax appraisal applications after a landowner's death.
- HB 3424 — Changes how dealer-owned heavy equipment inventory is taxed.
- HB 3699 — Modifies how initial unemployment compensation claims are handled.
- HB 4395 — Allows electronic filing and delivery of public securities and related records.
- HB 4738 — Eliminates the requirement to send a portion of certain loan fees to the state comptroller.
- HB 4739 — Ends the requirement to remit part of retail charge delinquency fees to the comptroller.
- HB 5654 — Creates Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 263 with taxing and bonding authority.
- SB 8 — Requires certain sheriffs to partner with ICE for immigration enforcement and creates state grants.
- SB 1023 — Changes how certain property tax rates are calculated.
- SB 1058 — Excludes certain securities transaction payments from taxable revenue.
- SB 1106 — Requires public improvement district plans and assessments to be posted online.
- SB 1453 — Revises how taxing units calculate debt and property tax rates.
- SB 1455 — Changes how workers' compensation regulation is funded, including new surcharges.
- SB 1502 — Allows school boards to adopt tax rates above voter-approved limits under certain conditions.
- SB 1522 — Updates regulations for continuing care retirement facilities.
- SB 1951 — Imposes penalties for failing to timely file required property tax reports.
- SB 1968 — Updates licensing and regulation of certain real estate professionals.
- SB 2206 — Creates tax credits and sales tax changes for research and development expenses.
- SB 2420 — Regulates mobile app marketplaces, including age verification and parental consent.
- SB 2520 — Adjusts school property tax limits for elderly and disabled homeowners.

Old300: Honoring Crosby's Heroes: DAR lays wreaths on veterans' graves



Members of the Old Three Hundred Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution gathered at Evergreen and Lynch cemeteries to place wreaths on the graves of area veterans. It was the first time the organization has placed the wreaths but hope to make it an annual event. Members of the chapter that attended include from left, Breanna Thomas, Donna Davenport, Sue Fitzgerald, Kimberly Miller, Laura Richard, Hannah Richard, and Debbie Holmelin.

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

On a brisk December morning, the quiet grounds of Evergreen Cemetery at 13703 Sralla Rd. were transformed into a place of heartfelt remembrance as members of the Old Three Hundred Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), gathered to lay wreaths on the graves of every veteran resting there. The event, held on December 13, 2025, was a moving tribute to the courage and sacrifice of Crosby's local heroes, ensuring their memory shines brightly during the Christmas season.

Guided by chapter member and cemetery president Donna Davenport, who meticulously identified each veteran's grave, the chapter paid homage to those who served, weaving together the threads of community, history, and gratitude. "This meaningful act reflects a continued commitment to patriotism, remembrance, and education," said First Vice Regent and co-organizer Kimberly Miller. "Old Three Hundred Daughters gathered today to lay wreaths in support of honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans."

The chapter's dedication was evident in the careful planning and collaboration that made the event possible. Vice Regent Breanna Thomas and First Vice Regent Kimberly Miller were instrumental in providing wreaths and ribbons, working closely with Donna Davenport to ensure every veteran was remembered.

"Our chapter was honored to bring wreaths to Evergreen and Lynch Cemeteries for the first time, placing 38 wreaths in remembrance of local veterans," noted Breanna Thomas. "It was a privilege to honor those who had not previously been recognized for their service, especially those from our community."

While the Old Three Hundred Chapter supports the national Wreaths Across America organization, this year's project was carried out independently, with a focus on Crosby's own veterans. The chapter prioritized providing wreaths to local heroes, ensuring that the spirit of Christmas and remembrance touched every corner of the community.

"This annual tribute allows us to honor those who served our country and to ensure their sacrifices are remembered," said Chapter Regent Laura Richard.

"We are grateful for the dedication of our members and the leadership of Donna Davenport, Breanna Thomas, and Kimberly Miller in making this meaningful event possible."

The ceremony was more than a simple act of laying wreaths; it was a powerful reminder of the enduring legacy of service and sacrifice, they said. As each wreath was placed, chapter members paused to reflect on the stories behind the names etched in stone stories of bravery, commitment, and love of country. The event also marked the first time that wreaths were brought to both Evergreen and Lynch Cemeteries, expanding the chap-

ter's reach and impact.

The Old Three Hundred Chapter's commitment to promoting patriotism, preserving local history, and serving the community was on full display. Through activities like the wreath-laying ceremony, the chapter not only honors veterans but also educates the public about the nation's heritage. Their efforts are part of a broader mission shared by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, a dynamic and diverse organization with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service, participating in projects that promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Since its founding in 1890, over one million members have joined the organization, each tracing their lineage to individuals who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War.

For those interested in learning more about the Old Three Hundred Chapter and its programs, the chapter invites inquiries at old300chapter@gmail.com.

As the sun set over Evergreen Cemetery, the wreaths stood as silent sentinels, bearing witness to a community's promise: to remember, to honor, and to celebrate the lives of those who gave so much. In Crosby, the spirit of Christmas is forever entwined with the legacy of its veterans a legacy cherished, preserved, and passed on to future generations.

First New Born Baby of 2026 at Houston Methodist Baytown



The first baby born in 2026 at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

Stellar Lee Schartz was born at 2:16 a.m. January 1st. Parents are Breyanna and Les Schartz. The parents shared, "A tiny heartbeat making this New Year brighter than we ever imagined."

2026 Rotary Chili Feast,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Highlands Elementary School.

The Highlands Rotary Club is now 77 years old, having been chartered in 1948. Fundraising for community projects over all those years has amounted to almost \$1,000,000. Much of this was returned in scholarships, as the club annu-

ally awards about \$32,000 to graduating seniors and college students. The club actively supports our local schools, including Interact clubs at Chinquapin and Goose Creek Memorial.

The club members are selling raffle tickets and welcome your support.

Contact 832-262-6828 or 713-906-2337 for information on how to acquire a ticket, or to become a sponsor.

The club is always looking for new members, also, if you would like to join others in community projects and fellowship.

New streetlights brighten safety, visibility along FM 2100,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

symbolize the chamber's commitment to supporting local businesses, creating welcoming spaces, and keeping the community connected. "By brightening our streets, we are helping to create an environment where families feel safe, businesses can thrive, and our own town continues to grow. We want to extend gratitude to all the businesses, volunteers and chamber members that help to make this project possible. Your dedication to the Crosby area keeps the Crosby public area shining," she said.

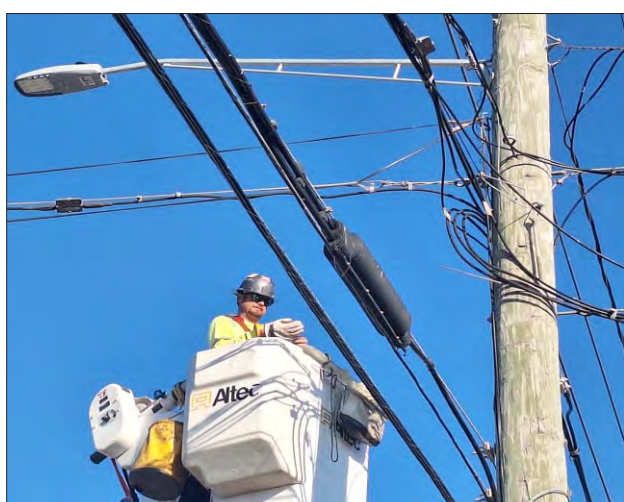
The chamber announced the program back in August to install 58 new streetlights along FM 2100 strategically placed from US 90 to South Diamondhead Boulevard.

The hope was the lighting would reduce nighttime accidents, deter crime, and create a more inviting environment for evening travel and local commerce.

"This has been a dream and vision of mine for many years," said Velma Ellison, chairman of the board of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce. "I am so thankful that our chamber board has worked alongside me to make this happen."

CenterPoint Energy began the installation last Monday placing the lights on wooden, existing poles spaced throughout the 2.8-mile route.

Ellison encouraged businesses, organizations, and individuals to participate in the Light Up Crosby project. "Your sponsorship helps to fund



A CenterPoint Energy lineman connects a new streetlight to an existing wooden pole as part of the chamber's initiative to light up FM 2100.

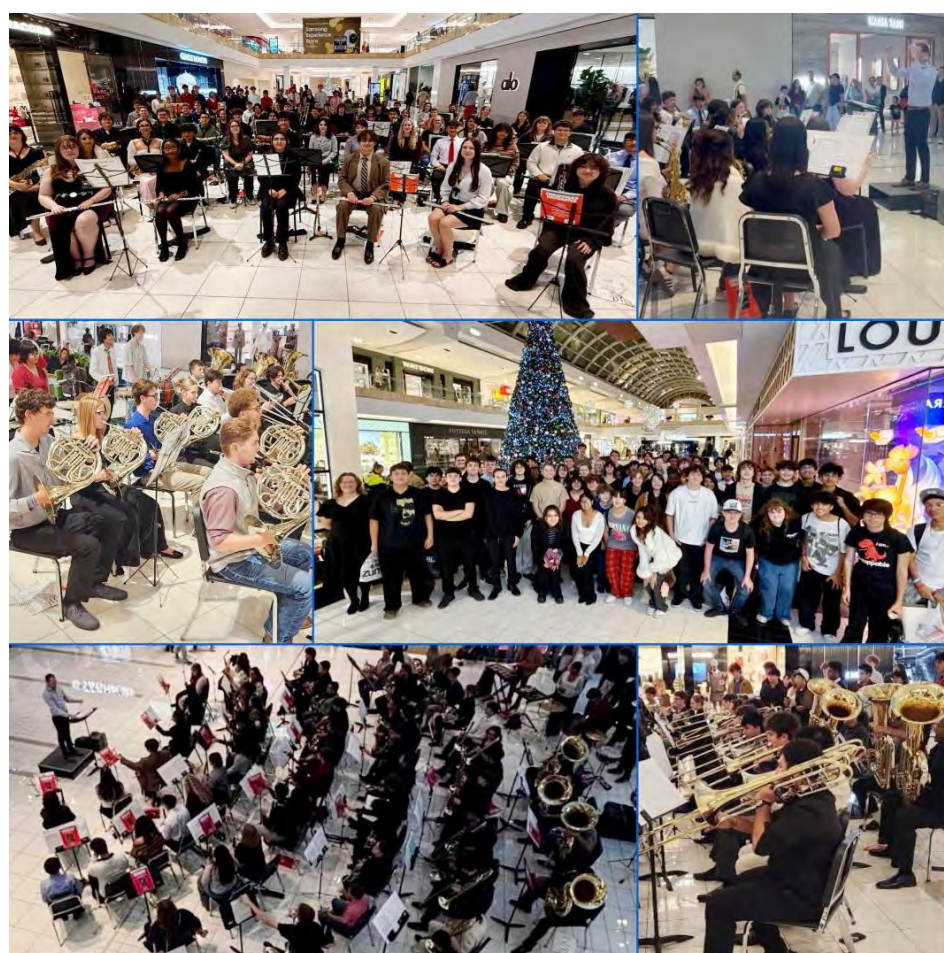
the power, all of which will directly benefit our community's safety. If you'd like to partner with us, please contact a Chamber representative today or visit our website for details," she added. Lights cost approximately \$10 per month, and payment should be made on an annual basis to reduce the need for paperwork and billing. To participate, scan the QR code or visit the chamber website at ht-

tps://crosbyhuffmancc.org and click on the streetlights tab at the top of the page. There are several levels of sponsorship, and the funds can be paid online.

For more information about this project or how to sponsor the streetlights, contact the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce at 281-328-6984 or drop by to visit them at 5317 First St. in Crosby.

Crosby HS Band spreads holiday cheer at Galleria,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Photos courtesy of Kevin Knight's Twitter account.

photos and video to remember the festive moment.

Knight said this was the school's 14th year playing at the Galleria. They have only missed two years in recent history: 2018 due to a scheduling conflict, and 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

When asked why he brings the band all the way to this part of town, Knight explained that it is to "share Christmas spirit

and Cougar pride with shoppers and visitors at the Galleria."

He added that after the concert finished, many of the young performers would stay to shop, eat, and even ice skate.

In other words, Knight not only leads these students as a conductor of music, but also intentionally exposes them to different places, opportunities, and experiences.

"I really enjoy taking them to travel and perform and do educational things," Knight said.

The week prior, the group had gone to Austin to play music in the grand rotunda of our state's Capitol building.

The photo (collage) below is courtesy of Kevin Knight's Twitter account.

Additional photos from the event can be found attached.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14 is 123 San Jacinto Street, Highlands, TX 77562.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that the street address of the administrative office of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80 is Crosby Fire Station No. 2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, Texas 77532.

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Harris County 2025 Year in Review

Celebrating Harris County's Top Accomplishments

Happy holidays, Harris County! As we look back on the last year, we want to celebrate the progress we've made and recognize the work we still have left to do. Keep reading to see some of Harris County's top accomplishments this year that Judge Hidalgo is most proud of.

Bringing International Investment to Harris County



Judge Hidalgo and the Japan/Taiwan trade mission delegation meet with Foxconn, which recently announced a \$225M investment in AI manufacturing in the Harris County region.

Judge Hidalgo led Harris County's first-ever trade missions this year alongside the Greater Houston Partnership.

As a direct result of Harris County's trade mission to Paris, more than 50 companies will travel to Houston/Harris County in the next year to explore partnership and collaboration opportunities.

Extending Critical Tax Cuts for Early Childhood Education Providers

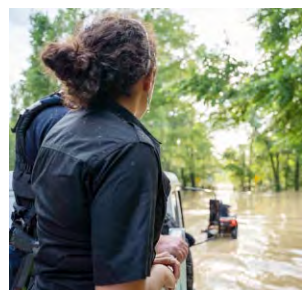


Judge Hidalgo visits one of Harris County's early childhood summer programs.

Commissioners Court voted unanimously to reauthorize 100% property tax exemption for qualifying childcare centers under Proposition 2.

The program, which enforces quality standards, and at least 20% of their students must receive subsidized services. The property tax exemptions are expected to save the average eligible Harris County childcare provider thousands per year.

Making Harris County More Resilient



Judge Hidalgo surveys flooding along the San Jacinto River.

Since Judge Hidalgo helped advocate for voters to approve Prop A last year, Harris County has taken huge steps to make Harris County more resilient and better maintain its flood control infrastructure.

- Triple the number of flood control infrastructure repair projects compared to 2024
- Restore 100+ miles of channels. Harris County's entire flood control system includes 2,500 miles of channels.
- Remove 117% more sediment and debris from channels, which lowers the risk of flooding by helping water move more freely.
- Cut resident maintenance request response times in half

#4: Setting Up More Foster Youth For Success



From left to right: Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Amos Johnson (HAY Center Young Adult) Judge Hidalgo, Zacharie Birdwell (HAY Center Young Adult), and Angelica Sosa (HAY Center Young Adult) cut the ribbon on the new HAY Center Campus.

Every year, approximately 200 foster youth in the Harris County region - which includes Harris County as well as 12 other counties - are at risk of becoming homeless on their 18th birthday. Judge Hidalgo celebrated the opening of the new \$41M Houston Alumni & Youth (HAY) Center Campus in August.

Started Preparing Harris County for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™



Judge Hidalgo joins local officials including Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis and Houston Mayor John Whitmire at a press conference highlighting preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™.

As Harris County prepares to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ next summer, Judge Hidalgo is working with local officials

to ensure that fans can enjoy the games safely. The FIFA World Cup 26™ matches will be the biggest sporting events that Harris County has ever hosted. According to the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority, the games are expected to generate approximately \$1.5 billion in revenue for the Harris County economy.

ENTERTAINMENT

December 1, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by Bud Blake

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

		6		5		4				
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2	3				4					8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenge
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

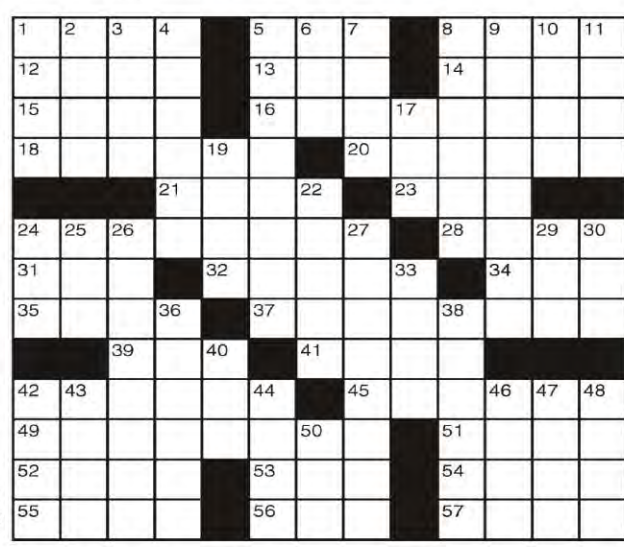
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hammer is longer. 2. Treehouse is not as wide. 3. Tree trunk is different. 4. House is wider. 5. Cap is different. 6. Hand is moved.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Roughly
 - 5 Texter's "Wow!"
 - 8 Nero's 1300
 - 12 Stead
 - 13 Museum-funding org.
 - 14 Vicinity
 - 15 In - (miffed)
 - 16 Deception
 - 18 Fawcett of '70s TV
 - 20 Goodies
 - 21 Skater's leap
 - 23 "Delicious!"
 - 24 Tobago's island neighbor
 - 28 Salon request
 - 31 A billion years
 - 32 Whiskey drinks
 - 34 Fish eggs
 - 35 Privation
 - 37 Three-paneled artwork
 - 39 "Friendly skies" co.
 - 41 Chevy sub-compact
 - 42 Pulpit delivery
 - 45 Painter
 - 49 Hopper
 - 49 Homages
 - 51 Always
 - 52 Forearm bone
 - 53 Depot (Abbr.)
 - 54 Sultry Horne
- DOWN**
- 1 "Frozen" snowman
 - 2 TV host Kelly
 - 3 Crystal gazer
 - 4 Defeated in a footrace
 - 5 Promptly
 - 6 Mal de -
 - 7 Pace
 - 8 Cosmetics
 - 9 Butter producer
 - 10 Birth doc.
 - 11 Low isles
 - 17 Sob
 - 19 Pivot line
 - 22 "Kinsey" actress Linney
 - 24 - Aviv
 - 25 Aussie hopper
 - 26 Making certain
 - 27 Tries to convey
 - 29 Sinbad's bird
 - 30 "Whatever"
 - 33 Raced
 - 36 Brazilian dances
 - 38 Hair dryers
 - 40 Baseball's Gehrig
 - 42 Ticket half
 - 43 - Stanley Gardner
 - 44 Fed. accident investigator
 - 46 Opposite of "sans"
 - 47 Gambling mecca
 - 48 "Phooey!"
 - 50 Summer in Paris
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Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom features a French bulldog named Stella?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Algeria?
- MUSIC: Which famous song starts with the line, "I read the news today, oh boy ..."?
- MOVIES: Who wrote "Hedwig's Theme," the main music in the Harry Potter movies?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is the origin of popcorn?
- HISTORY: Where was Napoleon Bonaparte exiled to after his defeat in 1815?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Sound and the Fury"?
- ANATOMY: What are the smallest blood vessels called?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In what year did the international version of TikTok launch?
- SCIENCE: What substance makes plants green?

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1. "Modern Family"; 2. Algeria; 3. "A Day in the Life"; The Beatles; 4. Composer John Williams; 5. Indigenous people in the Americas mastered the art of popping corn; 6. The remote island of St. Helena; 7. William Faulkner; 8. Cappillaries; 9. 2017; 10. The pigment chlorophyll



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