

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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VOL. 73, NO. 11 - \$1.00 © Copyright 2026

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

Crosby Bomb Hoax Triggers Evacuations, Homeowner Arrested

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Families in the Newport subdivision of Crosby were forced from their homes late last week after a reported bomb threat prompted a large law enforcement response that ultimately proved to be a hoax. Authorities later arrested the homeowner who made the call, accusing him of filing a false report that triggered the emergency response.

According to Harris County Constable Precinct 3, deputies were dispatched to a home on Barrett Gables after receiving a report that an explosive device had been placed in a vehicle at the

property. Out of an abundance of caution, officials evacuated residents within a 250-foot radius while deputies and the Harris County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad searched the area.

The response unfolded over several hours, with multiple homes temporarily emptied as bomb technicians worked through the scene. At approximately 11:30 p.m., authorities declared the area safe and allowed residents to return to their homes. Officials publicly thanked first responders for their swift actions and emphasized that all potential threats are treated seriously to protect the community.

As the investigation



A Crosby homeowner was arrested and charged with false report, induced emergency last week after allegedly making a false bomb threat.

continued, deputies interviewed the homeowner who had reported the alleged bomb. During those conversations, investigators determined the report was not truthful. After gathering evidence, deputies contacted the district attorney's office, which accepted charges of "False Report, Induced Emergency." The homeowner was taken into custody and booked into the Harris County Jail.

Under Texas law, knowingly making a false report that prompts an emergency response is typically charged as a Class A misdemeanor. Authorities note that similar offenses can carry harsher penalties if they

involve sensitive locations such as schools or public transportation systems.

Neighbors described the incident as unsettling, saying the sudden evacuations, flashing lights and late-night activity disrupted what is normally a quiet neighborhood. Law enforcement officials continue to remind the public that hoax threats carry serious legal consequences and divert critical resources from real emergencies. Anyone with concerns about suspicious activity is urged to contact authorities and allow trained responders to handle the situation.

IN THE STARS

9/11 Memorial Star Climb 3/28

Crosby Fire Department will host a 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Walk at Crosby Cougar Stadium, starting at 6:30pm on Saturday, March 28. Registration Onsite starting at 5:30pm.

Community Easter Egg Hunt for Crosby Families

Event: Easter Egg Hunt
Host: Antioch Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, April 4, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Location: Antioch Baptist Church, 230 W 1st St., Crosby, Texas
Target Audience: Children ages 4-10
Activities: Easter egg hunt with 500 eggs, two golden eggs, free food, Bibles, face painting, snow cones
Start Time: 2:00 PM
Purpose: Community gathering, celebrate Easter spirit.

Lacey Gordon and Kelley Start Named GCCISD 2025-2026 Principals of the Year

Story by Kendall David
Executive Director of
Community Engagement,

Goose Creek CISD is proud to announce the 2025-2026 Principals of the Year, recognizing two outstanding leaders whose dedication, service, and commitment continue to make a lasting impact on students, staff, and the entire GCCISD community.

Elementary Principal of the Year, Lacey Gordon — Ashbel Smith Elementary Lacey Gordon, currently in her second year as principal of Ashbel Smith Elementary, has been a member of the Goose Creek CISD family for the past 12 years. During her time in the district, she has served as a teacher, curriculum instructional specialist, assistant principal, and now campus principal. She is deeply committed to student success and



Kelley Start - Secondary Principal of the Year, Goose Creek Memorial High School.



Lacey Gordon - Elementary Principal of the Year, Ashbel Smith Elementary.

community partnership and considers it a privilege to lead the Ashbel Smith campus.

Under Mrs. Gordon's leadership, Ashbel Smith has experienced strong academic growth, rising nine

points in STAAR performance following her first year as principal. This progress reflects her commitment to strong instructional leadership and continuous improvement. She has championed im-

portful practices that support both teachers and students, including:

Leading and supporting instructional coaching cycles to strengthen classroom instruction
Implementing strategic

monitoring systems that promote effective formative assessment practices

Serving as a district-level presenter, supporting the professional learning and development of fellow educators across GCCISD

In addition, Ashbel Smith was recognized as a Healthy Schools Recipient, highlighting the campus's commitment to the whole-child approach and student well-being.

Guided by the campus motto, "Every Child Matters; Every Day Counts," Mrs. Gordon continues to foster a culture of growth, collaboration, and excellence where students and staff thrive together.

Secondary Principal of the Year, Kelley Start — Goose Creek Memorial

Continued. See GCCISD 2025-2026 PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR, Page 5

Crosby Woman Dead After Reported Home Invasion; Boyfriend charged

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY, Texas — A 26-year-old woman was found dead early Sunday morning after a reported shooting at a home in the Crosby area, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responded to a "shooting in progress" call around 4:15 a.m. at a residence in the 3000 block of Kennings near Bohemian Hall Road, authorities said. When they arrived, investigators found the woman inside the home with multiple gunshot wounds. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to deputies, the owner of the home



Christopher Thomas

called 911 and reported that someone entered the residence, attacked him, and then shot his girlfriend. The woman had been staying at the home for approximately three weeks, officials said. The caller did not provide descriptions of the suspected attacker or attackers at

the time.

Officials interviewed the homeowner later Sunday and believed it was the homeowner who shot his girlfriend.

Harris County Sheriff's Office detectives say Christopher Thomas was charged with murder in the death of Myrtle Spells. The two had been in a dating relationship and detectives have not revealed a motive for Thomas allegedly firing several shots into his girlfriend killing her.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office said additional details were not immediately available as detectives continued to col

Continued. See CROSBY MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER, Page 5

U.S. Air Force Band to Perform in Crosby 3/27



Join us for a night of entertainment featuring some of Washington, D.C.'s finest. We invite you to an unforgettable evening featuring the **Concert Band** and **Singing Sergeants**, where world-class military precision meets the heart of American music. Enjoy an enchanting journey through the Emerald City with hits from The Wizard of Oz and Wicked, alongside patriotic classics that define our history. We culminate the

Continued. See U.S. AIR FORCE BAND, Page 5

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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

GCCISD's "Grow Your Own" Clinical Teaching Program Builds Pipeline of Future Educators



Pictured, from left, Earnest Brooks, Lee High School Principal; Joe Rodriguez, GCCISD Superintendent; Daisy Medina, English Teacher at Robert E. Lee High School; Heather Alarcon, Austin Elementary Principal; Allica Snare, 5th Grade Teacher at Stephen F. Austin Elementary School; Paige Burt, Victoria Walker Elementary Principal; Seasha Wilson, 1st Grade Teacher at Victoria Walker Elementary School; Brooke Bingham, GCCISD Human Resources Coordinator; Jay Hobstetter, Science Teacher at E.F. Green Junior School; and Jim Campisi, GCCISD School Board President. (Photo by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

Story by: Nancy Bonds
GCCISD Director of Communications,

Goose Creek CISD (GCCISD) continues to strengthen its future educator pipeline through its Grow Your Own Clinical Teaching Program, an initiative that gives aspiring teachers valuable, hands-on classroom experience while helping the district develop highly effective educators from within the community.

The program allows college students completing their clinical teaching requirements to gain real-world experience in GCCISD classrooms. Participants complete either a semester-long or year-long clinical placement and are paired with experienced host teachers who mentor them through daily instruction, classroom management, and the many responsibilities of teaching.

Grow Your Own program benefit from the opportunity to learn in a supportive environment while gaining authentic classroom experience," said Brooke Bingham, Human Resources Coordinator for GCCISD. "By pairing them with experienced mentor teachers, we help them build confidence, sharpen their instructional skills, and feel fully prepared for their first year in the classroom."

At the February Board of Trustees meeting, the district recognized several clinical teachers who successfully completed the program and are now serving in full-time teaching positions across GCCISD for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

Those educators include:
Daisy Medina, English Teacher at Robert E. Lee High School
Jay Hobstetter, Science Teacher at E.F. Green Junior School

Madison Strawn, Science Teacher at Horace Mann Junior School

Elyssa Hernandez, Math Teacher at Ross S. Sterling High School

Olivia Patterson, Deaf Education Teacher at De Zavala Elementary School

Sabrina Okon, Social Studies Teacher at E.F. Green Junior School

Seasha Wilson, 1st Grade Teacher at Victoria Walker Elementary School

Sheyla Dominguez, 4th Grade Teacher at Ashbel Smith Elementary School

Allica Snare, 5th Grade Teacher at Stephen F. Austin Elementary School

Ana Karen Romero, 2nd Grade Teacher at Highlands Elementary School

Through initiatives like Grow Your Own, GCCISD remains committed to developing the next generation of educators and ensuring every classroom is led by a prepared, passionate teacher.

GCCISD Third Graders Shine in Houston Rodeo Creativity Contest



From left, Savannah Holman, HLSR Agriculture Education Committee volunteer; Ayleen Herrera and Megan Cervantes, Bowie Elementary students and contest winners; and Damon McLemore, Bowie Elementary principal. (Photos by: Stephanie DeLoss, GCCISD Junior High Science District Specialist)

Story by: Nancy Bonds
GCCISD Director of Communications,

Five third-grade students from Goose Creek CISD (GCCISD) have been recognized among the Top 200 entries out of more than 7,000 submissions in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) Creativity Contest, highlighting the artistic talent and imagination of GCCISD students.

The honored students include:

Megan Cervantes, Bowie Elementary

K'lynn Head, Bowie Elementary

Ayleen Herrera, Bowie Elementary

Stefania Cuevas, Highlands Elementary

Mateo Hernandez-Roa, Highlands Elementary

The students' creativity pages will be displayed during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo near the AgVenture area, giving visitors from across the region the opportunity to view their work.

"We are incredibly proud of these students and the creativity they



Pictured, from left, Blanca Capetillo, Highlands Elementary principal; Stefania Cuevas, Highlands Elementary student and contest winner; Rebecca Acuna, Highlands Elementary Art Teacher; and Mateo Hernandez-Roa, Highlands Elementary student and contest winner. (Photos by: Stephanie DeLoss, GCCISD Junior High Science District Specialist)

demonstrated through their entries," said Stephanie DeLoss, Junior High Science District Specialist for GCCISD and volunteer with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Agriculture Education Committee. "To have five Goose Creek third graders selected among the top 200 out of more than 7,000 entries speaks volumes about

their talent and the encouragement they receive from their teachers and families."

District staff, students, and community members attending Rodeo Houston are encouraged to visit the display area near AgVenture to view the students' artwork and celebrate their achievement.

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GOOSE TALKS
 **JOIN THE GIANTS ON THE ROAD WITH GOOSE TALKS TOURS**



This year, Goose Talks is bigger and better than ever! Our monthly parent and community meetings will now include exclusive tours of our district's programs and facilities.

Liles Early Learning Academy is dedicated to supporting our youngest students as they take their first steps in school. During this visit, Goose Talks participants will have the opportunity to see how our teachers and staff create a safe, welcoming learning environment filled with opportunities for early development.

Thursday, March 19 or Wednesday, March 25
 8:45 AM – 9:15 AM
 Parents arrive at the Administration Building
 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM
 Goose Talks Tour at Liles Early Learning Academy
 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM
 Lunch at the Administration Building



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Barbers Hill Press

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VOL. 31, NO. 11

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Chambers County Emergency Alert Drill

Chambers County is set to join a statewide emergency alert drill organized by the Texas Division of Emergency Management, highlighting the importance of efficient public warning systems for community safety.

The drill, scheduled for April 2, 2026, between 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Will test the county's public alert and notification systems, which may include voice phone calls, text messages, cell alerts, and emails. Residents will receive a message clearly stating that this is only a test.

For any inquiries, residents are encouraged to contact the Chambers County Department of Emergency Services at 409-267-4500.

E-Bike & E-Scooter Use at Mont Belvieu

We've heard your feedback and city staff has seen it too. There has been a big spike in e-bikes and electric scooters zooming all over Mont Belvieu. While we think it's great that people - especially kids - are getting outside and enjoying them, we want to be sure everyone stays safe while riding.

Please take some time to talk to your riders about the following:

- *Obey traffic laws, rights of way, and crosswalks
- *Stay away from busy parking lots
- *Watch for cars backing out of driveways
- *Always wear a properly fitted helmet
- *Use lights and reflective clothing in low-light conditions
- With just a few smart riding tips, everyone can stay safe and have fun!

What does the law say about e-bikes and e-scooters?

Texas Transportation Code Chapter 551 specifically outlines the use of e-bikes and e-scooters on our roads and trails. It's important that owners/parents/riders understand and obey the traffic laws so that everyone stays safe. Additionally, it's important that everyone understands the differences in the various classes of e-bikes.

Please note that only people 15 years old or older are allowed to operate a Class 3 electric bike.

What's the difference between an e-bike and an e-motorcycle?

There is a big difference between an e-bike and an e-motorcycle. It is very important you know the difference so you can keep yourself and your rider both legal and safe.

E-Bike
Operates with pedals and electric assist with a top speed of 20-28 mph

No license, registration, or insurance required
Can use bike lanes and trails

Must be at least 15 years old to operate a Class 3 e-bike
Must have a motor of not more than 750W

E-Motorcycle
No pedals - throttle only; can reach top speeds of 30+ mph

Requires driver's license, registration, and insurance
Not allowed on sidewalks or bike trails

Treated the same as gas-powered motorcycles under the law

West Chambers County Pilot Club's "Under the Sea" Gala Set for March 28, at Barbers Hill High School

West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. will hold its annual fundraising Gala on Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 6:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. at Barbers Hill High School, Mont Belvieu TX. The theme of this year's Gala is "Under the Sea".

For more information contact W.C.C.P.C. at P.O. Box 1032, Mont Belvieu, TX 77580, Email wccpilclub@gmail.com or President Jan Jones 832-984-8682 at alexisjanjones@gmail.com or to purchase tickets contact any West Chambers County Pilot Club member. Dinner tickets are \$15.00 each donation.



Drawing for a Spring pastel colored King-sized quilt, tickets are \$ 5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00.



Sharon Rogers with Shay's Jewelry donated Julie Vos jewelry to the live auction of the West Chambers County Pilot Club's upcoming March 28, 2026 "Under the Sea" Gala. (Pictured l-r) WCCPC Past President Linda Polk and Sharon Rogers with Shay's Jewelry.



West Chambers County Pilot Club Past President/Director Linda Polk with "Under the Sea" Gala Silver Sponsor Chamber County Commissioner Pct 3 Tommy Hammond. (Pictured l-r) Chamber County Commissioner Pct 3 Tommy Hammond and WCCPC Past President Linda Polk.



Sharon Rogers with Shay's Jewelry donated Julie Vos jewelry to the live auction of the West Chambers County Pilot Club's upcoming March 28, 2026 "Under the Sea" Gala. (Pictured l-r) WCCPC Past President Linda Polk and Sharon Rogers with Shay's Jewelry.



West Chambers County Pilot Club Past President/Director Linda Polk with "Under the Sea" Gala Bronze Sponsor Lisa Dagle with Lisa Dagle Insurance Services LLC. (Pictured l-r) Lisa Dagle and WCCPC Past President Linda Polk.

Drawing for Stoeger M3500 V2 12-gauge Max-7 semiautomatic shotgun, Bushnell Binoculars 10-50MM, and Soft gun case Tickets are \$20.00 each, only 200 tickets will be sold.



THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



What Will Matter a Million Years from Now?

get the promotion? That will definitely matter, because God has given you a responsibility to nurture your family, to be one with your spouse and to raise your children in the knowledge of God.

Our children are shaped, in a positive way, more by our presence than they are by the money and things that our jobs provide for them. They may appreciate the things. They may even be spoiled. But those things are no substitute for your active presence in their lives. Very few people, looking back on their lives, regret time spent with family.

But time spent in meetings?

And then there are troubles. They always feel like they'll go on forever, but in the eternal scheme of things they're temporary.

The Apostle Paul knew all about trouble. He faced illness, persecution, and even being stoned and left for dead in Lystra. Even so, he said in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV), "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more ex-

ceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Paul was serious when he referred to "our light affliction." He wasn't discounting anyone's sufferings; he was measuring them by the weight of eternity and the glory that awaits. He was keeping his eyes on the true prize, the eternal prize, and continuing to focus on doing God's will no matter what.

The reality is that

earthly achievements and earthly pain will all fade away and be forgotten, but godly character and faith endure. Understand this and you can experience peace even in the midst of the storm and see surprising things, like envy, fall away. As your eternal vision grows clearer, your priorities will shift and your life will change. You will be able to choose forgiveness over bitterness, integrity over short-term gain, and serving humbly rather than looking for reward.

I encourage you, when you have a decision to make or something is triggering anxiety, to ask yourself, "Will this matter in eternity?" When the answer is yes, you will know where to invest your life. And the things that have felt overwhelming will lose their power.

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Sam Houston Center Presents Free Family History Workshop with the Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Liberty, TX – The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC) presents its third annual Family History Day with presentations and hands-on help from the Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution (TXDAR) on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come learn about the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), why women join and how DAR resources can help both men and women uncover overlooked patriots. You may have one or more Revolutionary patriots in your family, and this session will walk you through the resources available that help you explore your connection to these ancestors. Presenters will also share information about the DAR's E-

Pluribus Unum Committee and specialty research groups.

In addition, Texas State Library and Archives Commission reference staff will describe the various genealogy tools available in Austin and Liberty. After the morning presentations and Q&A, DAR volunteers and TSLAC reference staff will be on hand to assist with family history research in the reading room from noon until 2 p.m.

10 - 11:45 a.m. Presentations
Noon - 2 p.m. Hands-on Research

This event is free and open to the public. To reserve your seat, please email samhoustoncenter@tsl.texas.gov or call (936) 336-8821. Seating is limited.

The Sam Houston Cen-

SHC PRESENTS:
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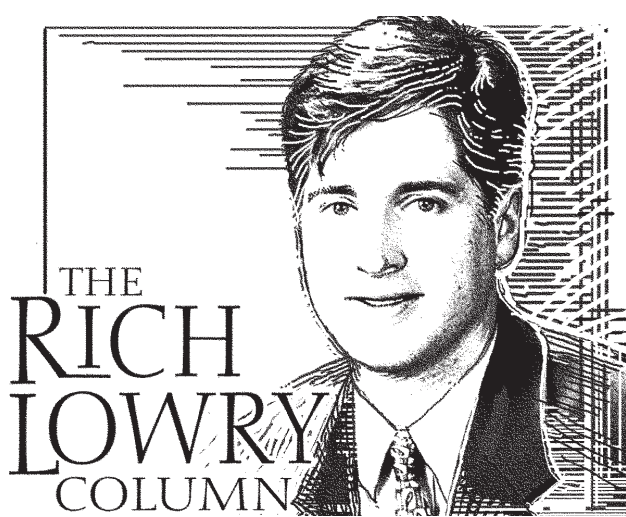
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ter is a component of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and serves as the official regional historical resource depository for the 10 Southeast Texas counties of Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto and Tyler. The Center's primary mission is to collect, preserve and provide access to historically significant state and local government records and publications of the designated region and secondarily to serve as a library of Texana and genealogical resources.

Alana Inman
Manager, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center
ainman@tsl.texas.gov
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OPINION PAGE



Kristi Noem rides off into the Sunset

Kristi Noem rides off into the sunset
At times, you could be forgiven for having thought that Kristi Noem wanted to be a uniformed DHS officer rather than the secretary of the department.

Now, the cabinet member most inclined to glamour shots out in the field is going to have to go back to wearing civilian clothes.

For all his trademark firings during "The Apprentice" and the rapid turnover of his first term, President Trump has been loath to oust top officials this time around. Kristi Noem is the exception, and she's earned the dubious distinction. Incompetent and preposterously self-promoting, Noem took a serious role and made it like something out of the HBO political spoof "Veep."

The Wall Street Journal recently published a devastating report on her time at the department, which she ran in close partnership with the man she's been rumored to be having an affair with, former Trump consultant Corey Lewandowski (she dismisses such reports as tabloid trash). It was a little like Antony and Cleopatra on the Potomac, except the empire was a sprawling bureaucracy and as farce rather than tragedy.

According to the Journal, Lewandowski fired a Coast Guard pilot who left Noem's blanket behind on another plane, and then, when they reached their destination, reinstated him because there wasn't anyone else to fly them home.

Reportedly, Noem tracked how often Tom Homan, the border czar who supplanted her in Minneapolis, was on TV and sought to outpace him.

The Journal related that Lewandowski was desperate to get a federally issued gun and badge and exacted retribution against those who didn't cooperate (he failed to get the gun, but apparently got the badge).

DHS officials denied much of the Journal story, but even if a fraction of it was true, it was still damning.

The two were turfy, sharp-elbowed bureaucratic players, not a new or unusual offense in Washington. But their enemies tended to be people who knew what they were doing, with Tom Homan high on the list.

Noem and Lewandowski raised eyebrows by taking an unusual amount of control over the department's spending. Self-dealing played a direct role in Noem's defenestration. The department approved a \$220 million contract — funneled in part through firms run by Noem and Lewandowski allies — for an ad campaign encouraging illegal immigrants to go home.

The ad starred — who else? — Kristi Noem. She was on horseback and in chaps. The implicit message was that if illegal immigrants didn't leave on their own, she'd immediately form a posse and run them over the border. It was a production worthy of a spaghetti western, or — more to the point, given her political ambitions — a commercial for a 2028 presidential campaign.

Noem couldn't defend the sketchy spending decisions, or the blatantly self-glorifying ad, or much of anything else, in brutal back-to-back House and Senate congressional hearings that precipitated her doom. She'd already been taken down a notch after the Minneapolis ICE operation went sideways. Not working with copious supplies of credibility to begin with, she tossed away whatever she had by instantly labeling both agitators shot by DHS agents "domestic terrorists."

All of this said, it was Trump who hired Noem despite her manifest deficiencies, including no notable experience in immigration enforcement. She was camera-ready and loyal, so why not? Her designated replacement, Oklahoma senator Markwayne Mullin, also doesn't have a background in immigration policy. One hopes, though, that he won't interfere with the professionals and will continue the Homan-backed approach of focusing on apprehending illegal immigrants who have committed other criminal offenses and received final orders of removal, and ramping up worksite enforcement.

The French World War I-era statesman Georges Clemenceau once said, "War is too important to be left to the generals." By the same token, immigration enforcement is too important to be left to self-serving glory hounds who are focused more on the main chance than the underlying mission.

Trump's first firing was the right one. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

Primary Turnout Smashes Recent Midterm Records

Nearly 4.5 million Texans voted in the Democratic and Republican primaries, according to The Texas Tribune, surpassing recent turnout numbers. A total of 2.3 million ballots were cast in the Democratic primary and 2.2 million in the Republican primary, marking the first time Democratic turnout was higher since 2020. Texas has approximately 18.7 million registered voters, so turnout was just under 25%.

Voters in both parties can return to the polls in May to decide primary winners in several runoff elections where no candidate garnered a majority:

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn faces challenger Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Cornyn received 41.9% of the GOP vote to 40.7% for Paxton in the March 3 primary.

State Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston faces U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, R-Austin for the Republican nomination for Texas Attorney General. Middleton led in the primary with 39.1%, while Roy had 31.6%.

On the Democratic side for attorney general, state Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, faces former Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski. Johnson fell just short of winning a majority with 48.1% in the primary, while Jaworski earned 26.4% of the vote.

Two Democrats are headed for a runoff for lieutenant governor. State Rep. Vikki Goodwin, D-Austin, finished well ahead of Marcos Velez, a Houston labor leader, with 48% of the vote. Velez received 31.5% of the primary vote. The winner will face incumbent GOP Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

There are also several runoffs slated in congressional and state house races. The runoffs will be held May 26, with early voting running from May 18-22. Voters cannot cross over to vote in a runoff, meaning if they voted in the Democratic primary, they cannot vote in a GOP runoff, and vice versa. Voters who didn't cast ballots in either March primary can participate in the runoff of either party.

GAS PRICES SPIKE SHARPLY IN WAKE OF IRAN WAR
The price of gasoline rose



nearly a dollar per gallon in some cities after the joint U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran last week. The Dallas Morning News reported gas prices are now at their highest level since President Trump took office in January 2025. Oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have been largely stalled, greatly reducing production by Asian refiners.

U.S. crude oil prices topped \$89 late last week. Since the Friday before the attacks, Brent crude oil, the global benchmark for oil prices, has increased by 24%.

Trump said Friday there will not be a deal to end the U.S.-Iran war without an "unconditional surrender" by Iran.

HUFFINES SAYS HE WOULD NOT CHANGE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Former state Sen. Don Huffines, who handily beat Gov. Greg Abbott's hand-picked candidate for state comptroller in the GOP primary, said he does not intend to change the state's \$1 billion voucher program if he wins election in November. Huffines, who challenged Abbott for the governorship in 2022, praised the current handling of the program, according to the Houston Chronicle.

"We're not here to be disruptive," Huffines said. "I don't see a big disruption in the process that's already started, as long as it's going smoothly and being run effectively and managed."

Huffines will face State Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, in the fall. The comptroller's office has been tasked with overseeing the voucher program, which is in its first year.

GONZALES ENDS REELECTION BID AFTER ADMITTING AFFAIR

U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales, R-San Antonio, withdrew from his re-election race after admitting to an extramarital affair with an aide who later died by suicide, The News reported.

"After deep reflection and with the support of my loving family, I have decided not to seek re-election while serving out the rest of this Congress with the same commitment I've always had to my district," Gonzales said in a statement posted on social media.

The House Ethics Committee announced a probe into his conduct after the primary ended. Gonzales finished second to challenger Brandon Herrera in the Republican primary for the state's 23rd congressional district, but the race was headed to a runoff until Gonzales withdrew.

Herrera will face Democrat Katy Padilla Stout, an attorney, in the general election.

SPACEX BEACH CLOSURE FIGHT REACHES TEXAS SUPREME COURT

The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a fight over whether counties can temporarily close a beach for a space flight, The Tribune reported. Rio Grande Valley environmentalists and indigenous groups have sued over a 2013 law that allows some counties to close a beach.

The dispute primarily concerns SpaceX, which operates a launch site near Boca Chica Beach in Cameron County. The Federal Aviation Administration has authorized the company to launch rockets up to 25 times a year, prompting the closure of roughly eight miles of beach adjacent to the launch pad.

Attorneys representing the plaintiffs argued the Open Beaches Amendment to the state constitution grants the public an unrestricted right to use public beaches. The state contended that the amendment does not guarantee unlimited, unfettered access.

"It is a more limited right," said Beth Klusmann, deputy solicitor general for the Texas Attorney General's Office. "The question, of course, then is what are those limits."

DRUNK DRIVING CRASHES SPIKE IN SPRING

Spring break is upon us, and the Texas Department of Transportation is supporting community efforts across the state to stop impaired driving. The state last year saw a spike of drunk driving crashes in March, more than any other month.

There were 700 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes in the state during the 2025 spring break period, leading to 36 fatalities and 63 serious injuries. During that time, 51% of all alcohol-related crashes in Texas involved young drivers aged 17-30.

Drivers are urged to never drive after consuming any amount of alcohol or drugs and to arrange for a sober ride beforehand.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Sensible Shoes



Yesterday, I saw a woman trip on the pavement. She immediately turned to her husband and started to complain.

I couldn't hear all she was saying, but I was thinking there was really no point in complaining to your husband when you trip on the pavement. It might be your fault, or the fault of the pavement, or the fault of your shoes, but it almost certainly has nothing to do with your husband, and the odds are he is wearing sensible shoes.

San Miguel de Allende, where my husband, Peter, and I spend much of the winter, is a city that requires sensible shoes. The entire town is a World Heritage Site, which means that the things you see outside must look pretty much exactly as they did in the mid-1700s, unless there is some life-threatening reason to change them. Tripping on the pavement does not qualify as life-threatening.

Peter loudly lobbies for hiking poles. He says every person should be using at least one at all times and two if taking a hike of any length. Peter probably has a good point, but he is not going to win this argument with most women, who are going out to dinner and carrying a purse and taking photos with a phone and possibly holding an ice-cream cone or a churro. Adding hiking poles to the ensemble is not going to be an option for most—in spite of Peter's well-intentioned entreaties.

I have noticed that footwear varies greatly by age. Young women will wear chunky, practical sneakers with dresses and pull it off with ease and charm. Slightly older women will wear more fashionable footwear and risk falling on the slippery, uneven, (but historically accurate) pavement. Women who are older yet will revert to chunky sneakers very similar to the ones their young counterparts are wearing. I can see a convincing argument for skipping the fashionable shoe phase and jumping right to the chunky sneaker phase, but I'm not there yet. And neither, apparently, was the woman complaining to her husband.

Perhaps we are in no hurry to reach the "I'm wearing chunky sneakers for the rest of my life" phase. Or perhaps we somehow relish the challenge of navigating the rounded, irregular stones beneath our feet and making a triumphant entry into the restaurant, unscathed. Or perhaps we are slightly jealous of the women who come in from Mexico City who wear not just impractical shoes but shoes with towering narrow heels, and traipse about the city with a small dog under their arm as if there was no skill involved at all.

My suspicion is that there are women in parts of the world trained from a very early age to manage high-altitude heels and, like learning a foreign language, one will never master it effortlessly unless they begin young. This is surely true of women in Paris. My dearest girlfriend used to live in Paris, and I would fret over what to wear when I went to visit her. She told me before a visit in July, "Don't worry about what to wear. The streets are filled with tourists in ugly shoes."

Meanwhile, the men wear pretty much whatever they feel like wearing and manage the cobblestones much better. I agree it makes no sense. I believe my health and safety should come before anything as frivolous as fashion. I can imagine how effortless it would feel to walk after dark on slippery stones with a heavy rubber cushion beneath my feet.

But this does not mean that I'm ready for sensible shoes. Yet.

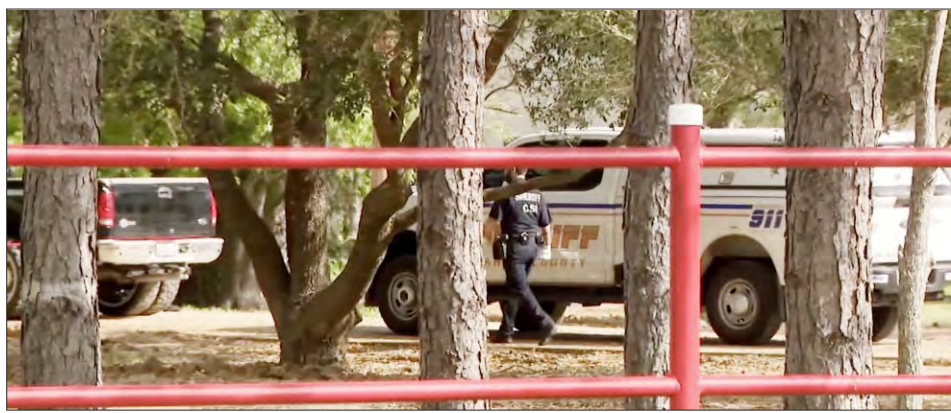
Till next time,
Carrie

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Crosby man charged with murder after woman found shot dead in his home,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



lect evidence and work to determine the circumstances surrounding the fatal shooting.

Court documents show he used a firearm with an extended magazine. Aggravating charges were added to his case because he shot her multiple times.

It's not the first time Thomas has had run-ins

with the legal system.

In 1997, he was convicted of burglary of a vehicle and spent 30 days in jail.

Two years later, Thomas received a conviction and probation for a drug offense in 1999 and completed his probation in 2005.

Thomas returned to court in 2019 to face a mis-

demeanor driving while intoxicated offense, but the case was dismissed after the case could not be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Bond was referred to the District Court by the magistrate and the state is requesting a bond of \$1 million.

The U.S. Air Force Band on Tour in Texas!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

evening with our signature tribute to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces.

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Crosby High School
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GCCISD 2025-2026 Principals of the Year,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

High School Mrs. Kelley Start, a proud Baytown native, has dedicated her entire 24-year career to Goose Creek CISD.

Mrs. Start began her career at Sterling High School as a Career and Technical Education teacher and Sterling Stars dance director. She led the Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program and was a CTE teacher, earning the GCCISD Education Foundation Student Choice Award and recognition as Sterling High School Teacher of the Year.

Transitioning into administration, she served as the CTE Specialist over the Global Business Academy at Goose Creek Memorial High School, helping the program achieve model status through the National Career Academy Coalition. She later served as Assistant Principal over Special Programs and Testing and most recently led Stuart Career Tech High School as principal, fostering a culture of innovation and student success.

As principal of Goose Creek Memorial High School, Mrs. Start has done an outstanding job creating a cohesive, goal-focused campus culture grounded in compassion, professionalism, and high expectations for both students and staff. She has implemented systems that empower students to take ownership of their learning through academic trackers that allow them to monitor and assess their own progress.

Under her leadership, Goose Creek Memorial has expanded opportunities that prepare students for life beyond graduation, including increased participation in Dual Credit courses, associate degree pathways, and College, Career, and Military



Lacey Gordon-Elementary Principal of the Year with Students. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)



Kelley Start-Secondary Principal of the Year with Students. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

Readiness (CCMR) initiatives—particularly through Global Business CTE industry certifications. Campus performance reflects this focused work, with double-digit growth in Domain 1 benchmark performance data, demonstrating measurable academic progress.

Mrs. Start brings pas-

sion and experience to promoting academic success, supporting staff, and creating a positive and inclusive environment for all students.

Congratulations to Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Start for exemplifying leadership excellence and for making a difference in the lives of our Giants every day.



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Crosby/Huffman Chamber Golf Tournament Drives Fun, Fundraising for Community

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce will tee off one of its most anticipated events of the year when it hosts its annual golf tournament on Thursday, April 16, bringing together local business leaders, sponsors and golfers for a day of fun while raising critical funds to support chamber operations.

The tournament serves as a major fundraiser for the chamber, helping sustain programs, events and advocacy efforts that benefit businesses throughout the Crosby-Huffman area. In addition to friendly competition on the course, par-

ticipants enjoy networking opportunities that strengthen relationships across the local business community.

"This tournament is more than just a great day of golf—it's an investment in the future of our business community," said Velma Ellison, chairman of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce board. "The funds raised allow the chamber to continue promoting local businesses, supporting economic development and creating opportunities for our members to connect and grow."

Ellison said the event has become a tradition because it blends fundraising with fun, making it easy

for businesses and individuals to participate while supporting a meaningful cause.

"When people sign up to play or sponsor, they're directly helping us keep the chamber strong and active," Ellison said. "It's exciting to see so many businesses come together for a common purpose, and it reminds us how supportive this community truly is."

The April 16 tournament will feature team play, sponsorship opportunities and on-course activities designed to keep the atmosphere lighthearted and engaging. Organizers say the event consistently draws strong participation, thanks in part to the

mix of competition, camaraderie and community pride it inspires.

Ellison encouraged chamber members and area businesses to get involved, whether by entering a team, sponsoring a hole or simply coming out to enjoy the day.

"This event keeps our chamber moving forward," she said. "Every golfer, sponsor and volunteer plays a role in helping us continue the work we do on behalf of local businesses all year long."

The 34th Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament is set for Thursday, April 16, 2026 at Stonebridge at Newport. Registration begins at 8:30

a.m. with a breakfast served at 9 a.m. and a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Sponsorships are still available. Cost is \$500 per team or \$150 per player. Registration includes green fee, range balls + cart, breakfast, lunch, drinks, giveaways, goodie bags, and awards for winning teams.

Lunch sponsor this year is Crawfish Shack of Crosby.

Some of the remaining sponsorships include Ace Sponsor. At \$4,000, the sponsor receives event marketing, exclusive interview, three teams, six tee box signs, a banner and 12 meals. The Birdie Sponsor

at \$3,500 receives event marketing, exclusive interview, company logo on goodie bags, two teams, four tee box signs, and 8 meals. Par Sponsorship is \$1,000 and includes event marketing, company logo on designated marketing item, score cards, games, beverage cart, chamber golf cart, golf towels, tee packets, one team, and four meals. Other sponsorships include Bogey Sponsor (\$850), Double Bogey Sponsor (\$750), Fairway Sponsor—Tent On Course (\$250), and Green Sponsor with Tee Box Sign (\$150).

For more information, contact the chamber office at 281-328-6984.

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GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Breakfast at 9:00am
Shotgun at 10:00am

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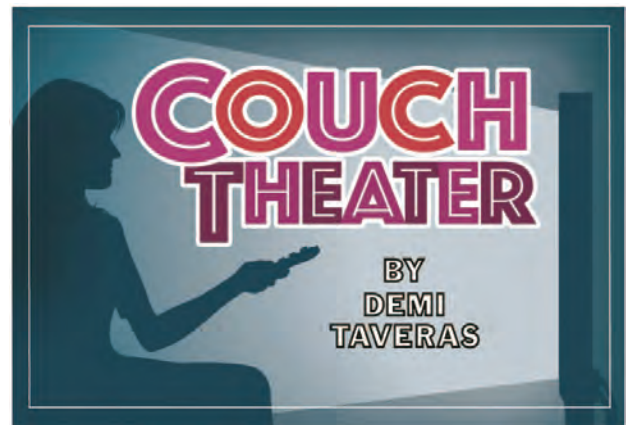
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Elizabeth Moss, Left, and Kerry Washington star in "Imperfect Women."

"Imperfect Women."

"The 98th Academy Awards" (TV-PG) — Award season has come to an end for the time being, and the race to the Oscars this year was one of the more interesting ones we've had in past years. With Jessie Buckley ("Hamnet") being the only obvious shoo-in for her respective category, the other categories have swung in every which way depending on the award show. What is certain is that Ryan Coogler's "Sinners," at 16 nominations, now holds the record of having the most noms in Oscar history, surpassing films like "Titanic" (1997) and "La La Land" (2016). Best Casting was a new category this year, and Conan O'Brien came back to host the ceremony for the second consecutive time. Stream the ceremony at your leisure now! (Hulu)

"Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man" (R)

— Cillian Murphy is back in the breakout role that led him to stardom for this crime-drama film that premieres on March 20. Taking place in 1940, approximately seven years after where the series leaves off, the sequel picks up as the order of the Peaky Blinders is up and running again under the leadership of Thomas Shelby's (Murphy) chaotic-loving son, Duke (Barry Keoghan). Although Thomas himself is living in "self-imposed exile" in the countryside, he returns to Birmingham after it's been bombed by the Nazis during World War II. Simultaneously, he's drawn back into the past he left behind for the sake of the war. Rebecca Ferguson ("Mercy") and Tim Roth ("260 Days") co-star. (Netflix)

"Imperfect Women" (TV-MA) — This new psychological thriller series premiering March 18

is led by three actresses who have each been in iconic TV shows throughout their careers: Elisabeth Moss ("The Handmaid's Tale"), Kerry Washington ("Scandal"), and Kate Mara ("House of Cards"). They play a trio of friends whose dynamic completely shifts when one of the women, Nancy (Mara), is found dead. With Nancy's mysterious and sudden death comes secrets from all parties that bubble up to the surface, including a not-so-platonic connection between her husband, Robert (Joel Kinnaman), and friend Eleanor (Washington). This is definitely not a girls' night you'd want to be a part of! The first two episodes are out now, with the following six releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV+) "Young Sherlock" (TV-14) — Hero Fiennes Tiffin, most notably known for starring in the "After" romance films, takes on the role of the English detective we all know and love - but as the 19-year-old version of him. Not quite the seasoned detective we've seen Robert Downey Jr. or Henry Cavill play, this Sherlock Holmes is at Oxford University and swears that his days of larceny and stealing are truly behind him. Although Sherlock promises his mother that he'll stay out of trouble, it naturally finds him when he's found at the crime scene of a murder at his very university. So, he's forced to figure out a way to prove his innocence, which will undoubtedly sharpen his ingenious sleuthing skills. All eight episodes are available to stream now. (Amazon Prime Video)

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Photo Caption: Nikki Crawford ("Days of Our Lives")

Q: Is the actress playing Lexie on "Days of Our Lives" the same one who played her years ago? I know the character was killed off, but I'm thinking this is a different actress, too. — K.B.

A: Renee Jones played Lexie Carver on the daytime soap "Days of Our Lives" from 1993-2012 until she decided to retire from acting. The character was killed off until now, 24 years later, when Lexie was resurrected by Dr. Rolf (William Utay) for what is sure to be nefarious purposes. Her husband, Abe (James Reynolds), will be in for a big surprise whenever she does reveal herself, especially since he's now married to the town's mayor Paulina, who's played by Jackee Harry.

Nikki Crawford, a Tony-nominated actress who's had numerous guest-starring television credits over the years, has been cast in the role. She told TV Insider that the character's identity was kept secret when she auditioned for the role. Like many seasoned actors who take on their first daytime soap role, Crawford was impressed with the fast pace of filming but did find it daunting at first.

"Days" is now exclusively found on the streaming service Peacock after spending an impressive 57 years on NBC.

Q: I saw that Timothee Chalamet has upset artists and fans of ballet and opera with his lack of appreciation for it. They said that it will probably cost him the Oscar this year, but hadn't voting already ended at this point? — V.D.

A: The ballot deadline for this year's Academy Award nominees ended on March 5. The remarks that you're referring to aired on CNN during a town hall that was held at the University of Texas on Feb. 21, with special guests Matthew McConaughey and Timothee Chalamet. It definitely could have affected voters' opinions.

His remarks? Well, he shot himself in the foot when he said, "I don't want to be working in ballet or opera or things where it's like, 'Hey, keep this thing alive, even though like no one cares about this anymore.'"



Nikki Crawford ("Days of Our Lives")

Chalamet is a huge basketball and WWE wrestling fan, and these art forms just aren't his jam. He's allowed to have his opinion, but people are also allowed to not vote for him should they so choose.

Q: What ever happened to the "Community" movie? I thought it would have been out by now. — S.S.

A: The cult classic NBC comedy series "Community" ended a decade ago. Danny Pudi's character, Abed, famously once predicted that his favorite show, "The Cape," would have "six seasons and a movie." When "Community" itself ended after six seasons, this quote became the rallying cry of fans of the show, who wanted more after their beloved series was canceled.

According to Entertainment Weekly, in 2024, Peacock greenlit a "Community" movie. The writers' and actors' strikes that originally stalled the project are now over, too, but one of the actors' projects got in the way. This is likely to keep happening with such a talented cast that includes Joel McHale, Alison Brie and Donald Glover.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff

March 16, 2026 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid and word lists

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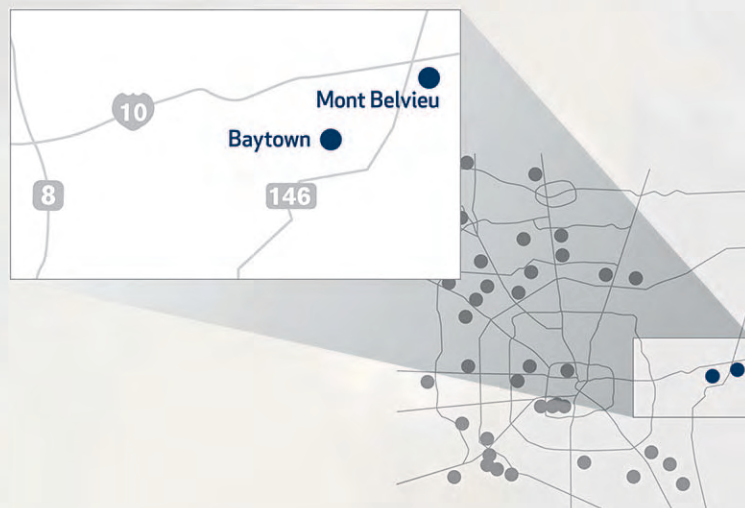
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