



Another amazing Cinco de Mayo celebration is in the books for PCT3 Community Center. See Story below & on Page 5.

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

WCID 70 Election Results

New Directors Take Helm at WCID 70

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Voters in Water Control and Improvement District No. 70 cast ballots Saturday that will significantly reshape the district's leadership and determine how it confronts decades-old infrastructure problems that have long strained finances and services.

With the election complete, four of the

Continued. See NEW DIRECTORS WCID 70, Page 5

IN THE STARS

CF&R 2026 Cowpoke Pageant May 9

Saturday, May 9, 2026 starting at 10:30am. Location: Crosby Fairgrounds, Rock'n C Arena.

Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber May 14

Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. Location: San Jacinto Community Center, 604 Highland Woods Drive.

The luncheon will feature a presentation by Harris County 311. Ticket can be purchased at allabouthighlands.org or 281-513-7267.

Crosby-Huffman Chamber May 21

Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 11:30 p.m. at the Crosby Community Center, 409 Hare Road, Crosby.

Speaker: Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, speaking on insights into our community. Lunch by Mezcales Mexican Fine Kitchen.

EPA Orders Long-delayed Cleanup of San Jacinto River Waste Pits

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a sweeping enforcement order requiring the cleanup of the long-contaminated San Jacinto River Waste Pits, formally moving the Superfund site into the remedial action phase after years of delay. The decision compels the companies responsible to begin removing toxic waste from the river environment and surrounding areas, a step advocates and local officials say is overdue.

On April 28, 2026, EPA Region 6 Administrator Scott Mason signed a Uni-

lateral Administrative Order legally requiring International Paper Company and Waste Management subsidiary McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation to carry out the cleanup of the Northern Impoundment and nearby areas. The order mandates the removal of an estimated 230,000 cubic yards of contaminated material and requires the companies to meet strict cleanup standards that were first established nearly a decade ago to protect nearby communities and Galveston Bay.

For residents along the San Jacinto River, the ruling represents a major



Tom S. Ramsey
HC Precinct 3 Commissioner

milestone following years of community organizing and concern about prolonged exposure risks caused by repeated delays in remediation. The waste pits, designated a Superfund site in 2008, contain

highly toxic substances, primarily dioxins and furans, linked to severe health and environmental harm. Remediation was first ordered in 2018, but progress stalled amid disputes over cleanup methods and costs.

Environmental advocate Jackie Medcalf, founder, CEO, and executive director of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance, said the EPA's action is a critical step forward but emphasized that it follows years of unnecessary delay. She noted that the responsible companies had pushed for a cleanup approach based on modeling rather than direct field verification, an argument the EPA ultimately rejected.

"After 3,121 days since the Record of Decision was signed, the EPA has finally ordered the cleanup of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, moving the site into the remedial action phase where the work can begin," Medcalf said. She praised the agency for requiring postexcavation testing, independent oversight, and stronger community involvement, but cautioned that continued public engagement will be essential to ensure the cleanup is "thorough,

Continued. See EPA MANDATES CLEANUP OF, Page 2

GOOSE CREEK SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Budgeting to Support What Matters Most

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, I want to take a moment to share an important update on the financial direction of Goose Creek CISD and the progress we are making as a district.

Over the past year, we have taken meaningful steps to strengthen our financial foundation. We are beginning to see the results of disciplined decision-making and a focused approach to spending. We are preparing to present a balanced budget to the Board, which would mark our first balanced budget since 2023 and an important



Goose Creek CISD Superintendent
Joe Rodriguez

step forward for our district.

This progress reflects a shift in our approach to our work. We have moved from simply planning a budget to truly budgeting a plan. That means we are not

just identifying priorities, we are making intentional decisions to fund them. This approach aligns with my commitment to our Board of Trustees and our community to ensure that our resources reflect what matters most.

Our priorities remain clear. We are focused on protecting and strengthening the classroom environment by investing in our teachers, supporting strong academic programs, and maintaining safe and structured learning spaces for all students. In recent months, we have also

made adjustments in response to feedback from the Student Safety Coalition, reinforcing our commitment to safety and discipline as essential components of student success.

While we are encouraged by this progress, we recognize that there is still important work ahead. Reaching a balanced budget is a meaningful milestone and reflects the collective effort of our district. At the same time, we remain focused on continuing this momentum and making thoughtful decisions that support both our immediate needs and long-

term stability.

As we move forward, I am confident in the direction we are heading. This work reflects a broader commitment to responsible stewardship and transparency, and to ensuring that every decision we make supports our students and those who serve them.

I am grateful for the collaboration and dedication of our staff, leadership team, and Board of Trustees throughout this process. Together, we are building a stronger foundation for the future of Goose Creek CISD.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration Unites Highlands Community at San Jacinto Community Center

HIGHLANDS - Another lively Cinco de Mayo celebration is in the books for PCT3 San Jacinto Community Centers, as more than 220 guests gathered to enjoy a day of culture, food and fellowship despite rainy weather conditions.

The annual event brought the community together in a vibrant display of tradition and unity. The fiesta was filled with Mexican culture, reflected in its delicious cuisine that highlighted the rich heritage shared by many in attendance. Guests enjoyed Mexican casserole, chips and salsa, and a variety of sweet desserts while taking in lively music and festive activities.

Continued. See CINCO DE MAYO, Page 5



San Jac Community Center staff and wide range of sponsors gathered to posed for a memorable photo.



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EPA mandates cleanup of San Jacinto River Superfund site,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

transparent, and complete.”

Local officials also welcomed the enforcement action. Jonathan Fombonne, Harris County Attorney, issued a statement applauding the EPA for putting “real enforcement” behind the approved remedial design and making clear that further delays will not be tolerated.

“For far too long, the people living along the San Jacinto River have waited for remediation work to begin,” Fombonne said. He added that the order establishes firm expectations

and accountability, requires regular reporting to the EPA, and ensures the public will be kept informed about cleanup timelines and progress.

The EPA’s decision follows an updated explanation of significant differences from the original 2017 cleanup plan. While the basic remedy—excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soil and sediment—remains unchanged, the estimated cost for cleaning the northern impoundments has more than doubled due to refinements made during

the remedial design process. EPA officials have indicated that any future modifications to excavation plans will be formally documented and must still meet protective cleanup goals.

Site documents related to the cleanup are available to the public through local libraries and online repositories, allowing residents to track the progress of a remediation effort that many hope will finally turn years of promises into action.

Man Drowns in Off-Road Park After Attempting to Swim Across Lake



CROSBY, Texas — Authorities say a man drowned in an off-road park in Crosby on Tuesday afternoon after trying to swim across a body of water on the property.

According to the Harris County Sheriff’s Office, deputies and EMS were dispatched for a water rescue to a small lake at Xtreme Off Road Park and Beach located at 1927 Gulf Pump Rd., just after 12 p.m. on Tuesday.

Investigators said a 33-year-old Houston man had entered the lake, which is connected to the San Jacinto River, and attempt-

ed to swim across it. According to deputies, the man made it about halfway across when he began struggling. He was seen going under the water in a body of water at the park and never resurfaced, deputies said

HCSO said that its dive team assisted with the search for the man.

At 3 p.m. the water rescue had turned into a recovery mission.

Deputies said that the man’s body was recovered from the water at 4:24 p.m. and was pronounced dead from drowning.

Investigators said they

do not suspect foul play. They added that they do not suspect alcohol was a factor in the incident.

HCSO said the park is private property and that there were no lifeguards.

In a post on social media, Xtreme Off Road Park and Beach said that four men in a truck arrived at the park and made their way to the body of water closest to the entrance. According to the post, one of the men was challenged by the others to cross the body of water, despite it being “clearly marked as a ‘No Swimming’ area.”

New directors take helm at WCID 70 as district faces aging infrastructure, financial decisions,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

district’s five board seats will soon be held by new directors, marking one of the largest turnovers in recent memory for the WCID 70 board, which serves the Lake Shadows and Lake Shadows Estates communities. Only one sitting director remains, providing continuity as a largely inexperienced board prepares to assume responsibility for a system that dates back more than 70 years.

Candidates competed for three positions up for election, while an additional vacancy had already been filled by appointment after a director relocated out of the district weeks before the vote. The result is a board that blends fresh leadership with limited institutional experience at a time when the district is facing some of its most serious challenges.

Saturday’s results place Shane Young in the Director’s Position 1 with 159 votes to challengers Connie Higgins 64, and Darrell Perkins 24. Rick Vega won the Position 2 slot with 194 votes to Nora Caufield’s 53. In the Position 4 race, Matt Holland collected 197 votes to Jim Raines 48.

Recently, David Findling was appointed to replace Steve Kimes and the final board member is longtime board member Keith Adams.

Chief among those challenges is the condition of the district’s sewer system and underground infrastructure, much of which is no longer watertight.

According to Adams, groundwater infiltration during heavy rains frequently overwhelms the sewer plant, forcing costly emergency repairs.



Harris County WCID70 Office Building

“Some sewer and water lines are buried as deep as 16 feet, making even small failures expensive to fix,” he said.

Officials estimate that millions of dollars in work is required to address longstanding deficiencies, including repairs that were first identified years ago but postponed due to financial constraints and legal complications involving district boundaries. Those boundary issues previously prevented the sale of bonds approved by voters, further delaying critical improvements.

One of the most consequential decisions made in Saturday’s election, however, was not tied to a board seat. Voters narrowly approved the removal of a longstanding property tax cap, giving the district authority it has not had in nearly two decades.


“The change allows the board to raise the district’s tax rate if necessary, from its current level of about 44 cents per \$100 of assessed property value up to a maximum of 65 cents per \$100,” Adams said. He emphasized that the measure does not automatically increase taxes but rather pro-

vides flexibility to generate funding as repairs and projects demand.

Supporters of the measure argued that it gives the new board a critical tool to stabilize the system, particularly as voters expressed a preference for higher taxes rather than selling valuable district-owned land that many residents view as central to the character of the neighborhood.

With corrected boundaries now in place and voter approval secured, the incoming board will be able to consider a mix of options, including “payas-you-go” repairs or future bond financing, to tackle infrastructure needs that continue to grow more expensive with time.


The first meeting of the newly configured board is scheduled for Wednesday evening at the district office on Foley Road, where directors are expected to begin grappling with repair priorities, budgeting decisions and the practical realities of governing a small but increasingly complex utility district.



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Dayton

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MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Baytown Man Charged with Capital Murder in Death of 7 Week-Old child

BAYTOWN – A 27-year-old Baytown man has been arrested and charged with capital murder in connection with the death of his 7-week-old child, according to court documents.

Christopher Leon Jenkins is accused of killing the newborn on July 25, 2025, by striking the baby with a blunt object.

Officers with the Baytown Police Department responded to Jenkins' apartment and found the infant unresponsive on a mattress, with no pulse and pink fluid coming from the baby's mouth, records state.

According to investigators, the child had been left in Jenkins' care while the baby's mother went to visit her own mother, who lived in a nearby apartment in the same complex.

The child's mother told investigators that 20 minutes after leaving the baby with Jenkins, he came to her mother's door saying something was wrong. When she returned, she found the infant unclothed on a mattress with blood coming from the nose.

A relative began performing CPR and was able to briefly restore the baby's breathing before emergency crews arrived. The infant was transported to Texas Children's Hospital, where he died seven days later, court documents state.

A witness told investigators they heard Jenkins yelling at the newborn to "shut up" while the baby was crying. The witness said the crying suddenly stopped shortly afterward.

Authorities said Jenkins gave multiple, conflicting accounts of what happened. Initially, he told officers he had put the baby down for a nap and later returned to find the infant not breathing.

Investigators say Jenkins later claimed he tried to throw the baby on the bed, but the baby bounced off, hitting his head on the floor. Jenkins said he began shaking the baby to make sure he was okay, and noticed he was bleeding.

During a demonstration with a doll, authorities said Jenkins showed how he threw the baby onto a bed, where the infant allegedly bounced off and hit the floor.

An autopsy later determined the infant died from blunt force trauma to the head.

Nearly nine months after the incident, Jenkins was arrested Saturday and booked into the Harris County Jail, according to online records.

His bond has been denied. He is scheduled to appear in court on Monday.

BHISD Voters Overwhelmingly Approve \$95M Bond Package for Multi-purpose Facility

MONT BELVIEU - Barbers Hill ISD voters have overwhelmingly approved a \$95 million bond package aimed at replacing the district's aging fieldhouse with a modern, multi-purpose facility designed to serve both students and the broader community.

"The largest presidential victory as a percent of the electorate was the year I was born when Texan Lyndon Johnson won with 61%," said Superintendent Dr. Greg Poole.

"We just passed yet another Bond initiative by almost a 2-to-1 margin with 66% of the vote. The people have spoken and they weren't swayed by demagogues, wannabe online warriors or a slanderous state rep," Dr. Poole said.

"They were swayed by

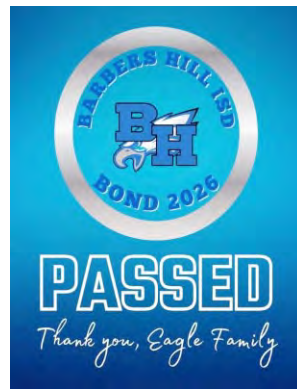
the product we produce. It is a vindication and a validation that people do see-through politically motivated propaganda," he added.

Unofficially, the vote was 1,110 for and 582 against for a 66 percent margin of support.

District leaders have emphasized that the bond will not result in an increase to the Barbers Hill ISD tax rate, a key factor highlighted throughout the election process.

The current fieldhouse, originally constructed in 1981, has long served the district but no longer meets the needs of a rapidly growing student population. The facility was fully paid off in 1998.

Over the past four decades, Barbers Hill ISD has experienced significant growth, with enrollment rising from fewer



than 1,500 students in 1980 to more than 8,100 today. Projections indicate the district will continue expanding at an annual rate of 3 to 4 percent over the next decade, further underscoring the need for updated and expanded facilities.

The new multi-purpose facility will be designed to accommodate a wide range of activities, including volleyball and basketball competitions, fine

arts performances, and large-scale district events. Officials say the space will also host graduation ceremonies, staff convocations, and community gatherings.

A key feature of the project is its compatibility with fine arts programming. The larger capacity venue is expected to allow for single, unified performances, eliminating the need for multiple showings currently required due to space limitations.

In addition to the new facility, the bond includes funding for improvements to existing athletic infrastructure. Plans call for the replacement of football dressing facilities within the current fieldhouse, as well as stadium upgrades such as improved lighting, expanded concessions, renovated restrooms, and enhanced

safety features.

District leaders say the approved bond represents a long-term investment in both student opportunities and community engagement, positioning Barbers Hill ISD to better serve its growing population for years to come.

The superintendent also pushed back forcefully against what he described as misleading online criticism, saying, "Social media is a charlatan that emphasizes followers who can be lost at the whim of the latest lurid allegation. Leadership emphasizes believers and I am proud of our school board and our staff who continue to make believers out of the students whose lives they positively impact."

Barbers Hill HS Fine Arts Signing Day

Congratulations to our BHHS Seniors on their commitment to take their incredible talent to the next level! Collectively, these students have received more than \$100,000 in scholarships from these fine arts programs. Go Eagles!

Isabella "Elliott" Cook: University of North Texas (choir)

Grayson Fisher: Texas State University (theatre)

Tate Hollingsworth: Centenary College of Louisiana (choir & football)

Bryce Kirsch: University of Texas at San Antonio (band)

TaKiyah Lowe: Stephen F. Austin State University (choir)

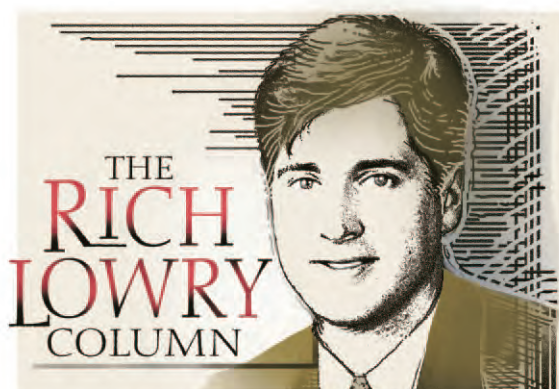
Reagan Pfitzner: University of South Florida (musical theatre/dance)

Grayson Root: Lamar University (band)

Marissa Shelton - University of Texas at Austin (art)



★ OPINION PAGE ★



The Indomitable Trump

The Indomitable Trump
Andrew Jackson is the only president of the United States who got the better of his attempted assassin.

The aged Jackson was at the Capitol for a congressional funeral when a crazed man named Richard Lawrence aimed a pistol directly at his chest and pulled the trigger. It misfired. Jackson bull-charged his assailant with his cane and, incredibly, Lawrence pulled out another pistol. It, too, misfired.

As bystanders intervened, an enraged Jackson supposedly yelled, "Let me alone! Let me alone! I know where this came from." Lest we think we live in a uniquely inflamed, conspiratorial moment, Jackson's Whig opponents dubbed him King Andrew, and John C. Calhoun reportedly called him "a Caesar who ought to have a Brutus." Jackson thought the Whigs had orchestrated the attack, and the Whigs thought he had staged it.

Trump isn't a former general or wizened old Indian fighter like Jackson, but he partakes of the same spirit of aggressive defiance. By all appearances, the least fearful people in the ballroom of the White House Correspondents' Dinner were a random older gentleman from New York who kept eating his dinner during the mayhem ... and the presidential target of the attack himself.

Donald Trump is one of the most indomitable figures in the history of our politics. No matter how much he's mocked or hated, no matter how intense the controversy or how impossible the fix, no matter how dramatic the situation, he never breaks or loses his sense of command.

The ever-ebullient Teddy Roosevelt, who once gave a speech from shot-through notes immediately after an assassination attempt, might tip his cap. (TR takes the cake for badassery in the face of a threat to his life, given that he delivered that 1912 campaign speech while bleeding and with the bullet still lodged in his chest.)

A fundamental part of the Trump ethos is, as he said right after the dinner attack, when everything was still confused, "Let the show go on." For him, the show must never stop, and he's always at the center of it.

This is one reason that he had the instinct to pump his fist in the air in Butler, Pennsylvania, after he'd been bloodied and nearly killed by an assassin's bullet, demonstrating fight and lack of fear in an instantly iconic moment.

Anyone inclined to dismiss this trait as that of a mere entertainer should consider how showmanship has always had an outsized role in high-level politics; FDR referred to himself, in a positive way, as one of the top actors in the country.

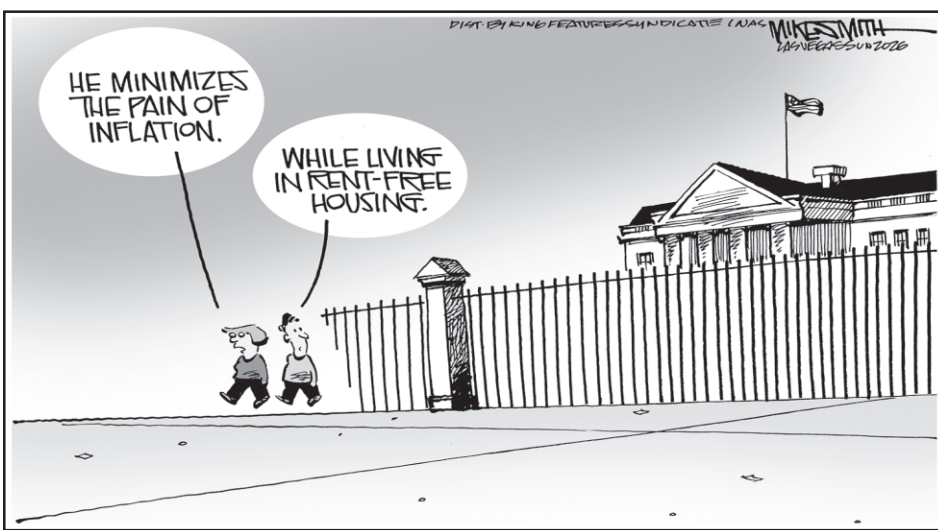
Trump's belief that he's always going to prevail and that if he doesn't, he'll find a workaround gives him an invincible self-confidence. It doesn't mean that he won't retreat if necessary, but whether he's being firm or flexible, he's equally upbeat and assured about his position.

He couples this with a hyperactive energy. Just look at Washington, D.C. He's deployed the National Guard to fight crime, cleaned up homeless encampments and public parks, vowed to make the grass look greener and the water in the Reflecting Pool look bluer, hosted a military parade, brought the coming attractions of an IndyCar race and an enormous fair on the National Mall, started construction of a massive new White House ballroom, and stated his intention to build a 250-foot triumphal arch.

His omnipresence, ambition and willingness to exercise power across two presidencies — spanning 12 years with the Biden interregnum — are going to make him one of the most dominant figures in American political history, up there with the likes of Reagan, FDR and TR in the modern era.

None of this means that he's right or wrong on any given question, and, of course, these characteristics all come with downsides, sometimes considerable ones. But no one can question Trump's resilience, or his preternatural ability to proceed unbowed no matter what the circumstance.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Texas Awards First \$400 M in School Vouchers

State officials began sending out the first notices to families awarded education vouchers last week, the Houston Chronicle reported. In the first round, 42,644 qualified, mostly students with special needs who are considered the highest priority.

More than a quarter-million students have applied to the state's voucher program, with a lottery determining who gets a spot. Initial funding for the program is \$1 billion, and it is projected to support 100,000 students in its first year.

The program offers taxpayer money to help pay for private and homeschool education. The amount of each voucher awarded in the initial round varied, from \$2,000 each for the 11,000 children applying for homeschool funding to an average of \$15,585 for parents who documented their children's special educational needs.

SMOKABLE HEMP BAN TEMPORARILY BLOCKED

A ban on the sale of natural smokeable hemp products has been blocked, possibly until the end of April, by a Travis County district judge. A court hearing is set for this week.

The Texas Tribune reported that lawyers for the hemp industry argue that state agencies overstepped their constitutional authority by imposing new testing requirements that created a 0.3% total THC threshold. The industry says that effectively eliminated smokeable products by essentially rewriting the statutory definitions of hemp created by legislators in 2019.

While that 2019 law also limited THC levels to 0.3%, manufacturers got around it by cultivating hemp plants with another type of THC called THCA, which produces a high when ignited. The newly written limits on



any type of THC mirror those that will be imposed by the federal government in November.

APPEALS COURT RULES FOR TEN COMMANDMENTS IN CLASSROOMS

A federal appeals court last week ordered public school districts to place copies of the Ten Commandments in classrooms, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Parents and a group of faith leaders in nine school districts sued over a 2025 law that requires public schools to post donated posters of the Ten Commandments in classrooms.

By a split vote, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided the law does not violate the U.S. Constitution, overturning a San Antonio federal judge's ruling last year. The case could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Students are neither catechized on the Commandments nor taught to adopt them," the judges wrote. "Nor are teachers commanded to proselytize students who ask about the displays or contradict students who disagree with them."

Six judges on the appeals court dissented, with Judge Leslie H. Southwick writing that "S.B. 10 is facially unconstitutional under the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses."

WORKPLACE FATALITIES DIPPED SLIGHTLY IN 2024

The Texas Department of Insurance has reported that 557 workplace fatalities were reported in 2024, the latest year for which statistics are available. That is down slightly from the 564 workplace fatalities reported in 2023. More than 90% of the fatalities occurred in the private sector.

The most fatalities were reported in the trade, transportation and utilities sector at 175; construction fatalities, with 128, followed. The most common occupation involving fatalities was motor vehicle operators.

A total of 75 fatalities were due to violent acts in 2024.

Men accounted for 92% of the 557 total incidents in 2024.

TEXAS ECONOMY HITS RECORD \$2.9 TRILLION

The Texas economy expanded to \$2.9 trillion in 2025, growing faster than the nation as a whole at a 2.5% rate, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The state maintained its ranks as the world's eighth-largest economy, based on preliminary estimates from the International Monetary Fund.

"The Texas economy expanded to a record high of \$2.9 trillion thanks to the productivity of our skilled workforce and the entrepreneurs and businesses investing here with confidence," said Greg Abbott.

The state's economy has grown by 46% over the past 11 years.

WILDFIRE RISKS IN PANHANDLE, WEST TEXAS RISE

Dry windy conditions across West Texas and the Panhandle are rising, the Statesman reported, leading to increased risk of wildfires. The National Weather Service has issued red flag warnings from Canada to Mexico, including those areas in Texas.

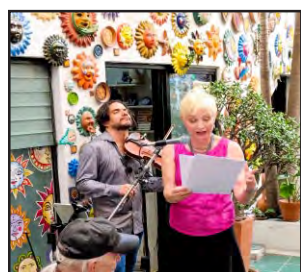
"A red flag warning means a combination of warm temperatures, very low humidity, dry vegetation, and strong winds. These conditions can quickly spark and spread wildfires, and in this environment, even a small fire can grow rapidly, so extra caution is critical," Mary Wasson, meteorologist with the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The Texas A&M Forest Service reports that 9 out of 10 wildfires in Texas are human-caused and therefore preventable. Burn bans are now in effect in 102 Texas counties, and wildfire preparedness is at Level 2, with Level 5 being the highest risk.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

What We Remember



"I suppose I have to start packing," my husband, Peter, said.

It is always so hard to leave. Packing up from San Miguel de Allende is not a terribly difficult process because we leave the art on the walls and the dishes in the cupboard and, this year, a brand-new beautiful couch sitting in the apartment. We know that the hotel housekeeper, Lulu, will keep a watchful eye on everything.

So it should not be so hard to leave, yet it always is. Our stuff stays behind, and we leave with memories.

There is a principle in psychology which says that in order to slow time, you need more novel experiences. Childhood seems to last a long time because everything is new and everything is a first. As we age, we do more of the same things. This makes one day blend into the next, and one week into the one after that, and before we know it, 10 years have passed without it seeming like any time at all.

Coming to San Miguel, we find ourselves doing things we've never done before on at least a weekly basis—and this is unusual for a couple of people who are fond of our routines.

I write every day. I have friends who complain about this. "You should come to yoga!" they insist. "You should go to the hot springs!" "You should take an art class!"

They think I should make exceptions to attend morning events—events that occur right smack in the middle of my writing time. Occasionally I do. But 9 days out of 10, I am at my desk writing.

My friends' reaction to this is either to tell me that I am very disciplined or very boring. I don't think either one is true (although I will accept that I might be a little dull). I write every day because I enjoy it, and most of my enjoyment comes from getting better and getting things finished. It's no more complicated than that.

Peter is very much the same way about his morning hikes. Peter gets positively grouchy if he is deprived of daily exercise, not because he has a gun to his head, but because his long, strenuous hike is what makes him feel good.

Fortunately for both of us, there is no shortage of things to do and see in the afternoons and evenings, and last night, we had a going-away gathering of friends and neighbors.

We called it a book launch, although after two and a half months, I no longer think of "Loon Point" as launching. It's more like a ship out at sea. It has left me behind on shore and is off having amazing adventures with all its readers.

But I read from "Loon Point" one last time, and the violinist David Mendoza played, and we served food to friends. Everyone met someone they had never met before, and friendships were forged and a lot of fun was had.

Then Sebastian (who, unlike most of our guests, grew up in San Miguel) came out of the kitchen and announced, "It will rain soon."

Everyone looked up at the blue sky in surprise. Fifteen minutes later, it began to pour.

We said our goodbyes. We promised to get together again. Every person headed off to a different life in a different place.

I knew we would never meet again—not in quite that way, not with that exact group of people, not for that meal or that experience. And I will remember last night for all those reasons.

Till next time,
Carrie
Carrie's debut novel, "Loon Point," is now available at both local and online retailers.

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San Jacinto Community Center transforms into colorful Mexican fiesta,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Beyond the food and entertainment, the celebration emphasized connection, with attendees enjoying door prizes and, most importantly, one another's company.

Organizers extended their gratitude to a wide range of sponsors whose support made the event possible, including SUVIDA, Visiting Angels, Luna's, Randy Casey State

Farm, Judge Lucia Bates, El Toro, Peet and Georgina Bighorse, Seniors Helping Seniors High-Town, Inc., PCT 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, and Sterling White Funeral Home & Cemetery.

San Jacinto Community center staff and volunteers played a key role in the event's success, assisting with setup, serving meals and cleanup. Special

thanks were given to Flavia Mullins, Lucy and Joseph Rodriguez, Dalton and Michelle Ford, PCT3 staff and George for their contributions.

With strong community support and a spirit of celebration, organizers described the event as a grand success and are already looking forward to bringing the community together again next year.



Left to Right - Britany White, Tonya Kostkan and the DJ featuring lively music.



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LEGAL NOTICE

Students residing within the Crosby Independent School District attendance boundaries, but attend private non-profits schools, may be eligible to receive supplemental educational equitable services from the following programs:

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs
- Title II, Part A – Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title III, Part A – English Learners
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A private school must have nonprofit status to be eligible to participate in federally funded services. Private, nonprofit schools interested in learning more about the federal program services are invited to attend an informational and planning meeting on June 2, 2026, at 10:00 am or June 10, 2026, at 10:00 am. Individuals can attend this meeting in the Board Room located at 14670 FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532. Please email a request to attend including a valid email address to kescobar@crosbyisd.org by June 1, 2026 indicating which meeting you plan to attend in-person.

All parents of students served on participating Title I campuses are also invited to attend this informational and planning meeting. Schools that receive federal program services must comply with all required federal policies and procedures.

Your input will provide the district with valuable information. Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

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★ OBITUARIES

Ella Kathryn Trumpy

Ella Kathryn Trumpy, known as "Kathy", went to be with the Lord on April 30, 2026. Born on August 30, 1938, to her loving parents Joseph and Dora Mae Hurta, Kathy lived a life rich in purpose and adventure. She will always be remembered as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.



on word or number puzzles, with her favorite type being cryptograms. However, she always made time for playing competitive games of Wa-Hoo, dominoes, or Skip-Bo.

Kathy is preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Dora Mae Hurta; brothers Howard, Billy Joe, and Leroy Hurta and their spouses; sister Jean Smith and husband Eldon; and nephew Joel Dean Hurta.

She is survived by her husband, William (Bill) Trumpy; daughters Teresa Kleb and son-in-law Taylor, Denise Tees and son-in-law Clint; grandchildren Tiffany Heathman and family, Jonathan Kleb and family, Joshua Tees, and Leah Tees; sister Georgia Mikosh and husband Billy; as well as numerous beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members.

Friday, May 29 - Visitation at 1:00, Service at 2:00 (Catholic) Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby Lynchburg Road Highlands, Tx 77562

Saturday, May 30 - Visitation at 1:00, Service at 2:00 (Celebration of Life) Northwest Bible Church 5503 Fellowship Lane Spring, Tx 77379

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Many knew Kathy as a woman with a creative and adventurous spirit from being an exceptionally bright and engaging teacher to diving the Great Barrier Reef and traveling the world. She had a rare gift for finding creative and inventive ways to inspire her third through twelfth grade students in mathematics and sciences. After taking a few years off, she returned to teaching at Crosby's Sacred Heart School during 1976-1983, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of learning from her.

mother. She supported all of his other crazy endeavors such as building a barn, processing deer meat in the middle of the night, building trailers, and ranching. Their marriage was built on love, laughter, and an unshakable commitment to each other that set a great example for their children and grandchildren.

Away from the classroom and supporting her husband's endeavors, Kathy's curiosity and experimentation, never ceased. She was always working on maintaining her pecan orchard, growing roses, and tending to various fruit trees. She loved the outdoors but also loved being in the kitchen and experimenting with creating different cobblers and custom wine making. When she actually had a few minutes to sit down, she would work

Married nearly 65 years to her beloved husband William (Bill) Trumpy, Kathy was his steadfast partner in every sense. When Bill pursued his engineering degree, Kathy tutored him and made sure he understood the required mathematical concepts while she was working as a full-time teacher and young

Felix John Brysch, Jr.

Felix John Brysch, Jr. passed peacefully—but not without a fight—in the early morning hours of Friday, May 1, 2026.

Felix was the picture of consistency and dedication throughout his life. If he had one singular focus, it was providing for his family.

Born into a farming family in Karnes County, Texas, he carried a strong work ethic from an early age. From his service in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, to his years driving trucks, and ultimately his long career with Exxon, he was known as a hardworking and dependable man.

As his family grew, Felix was a constant supporter and organizer. He served as President of Highlands Little League and the Highlands Sports Association and coached countless youth sports teams in support of his children.

His faith was a cornerstone of his life, and St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church held a special place in his heart. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, the



Parish Council, and the Men's Club. Felix was also a long-time member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Shirley Sue Brysch; his daughter, Mary Dorene Brysch; his parents, Felix Brysch, Sr. and Mary T. Dudlefski; and his brother, Vincent Leon Brysch.

He is survived by his children, Elizabeth Ann Schwarz (Nick), James Patrick Brysch, David Alan Brysch (Yvette), Joseph Dean Brysch (Lettie), Felicia Susanne Brysch, and John Darren Brysch (Jinutha); his grandchildren, Chelsea Nicole Cutright (Isaiah), Karli Suzanne Conn (Matt), Noah Alan Brysch, Caleb Dylan Bry-

sch, and Julian Brysch; and his great-grandchildren, Levi, Ella, Parker, and Peyton.

A rosary will be recited at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, followed by visitation until 8:00 p.m. at Sterling White Funeral Home. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church, with interment to follow at Sterling White Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers are Noah Brysch, Caleb Brysch, Julian Brysch, Isaiah Cutright, Matt Conn, and Adrian Trevino.

The family invites all who knew him for lunch and a celebration of his life at 1:00 p.m. at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Men's Club, Food Pantry, or Catholic Daughters (#1894), at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church in Highlands, Texas.

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Robert Pattinson, left, and Zendaya star in 'The Drama.'

'The Drama'

'The Drama' (R) — Who says we don't have movie stars nowadays when Zendaya ('Euphoria') and Robert Pattinson ('Die My Love') not only exist but continue to feed the souls of millennials and Gen Z with projects like this film!

posed to don their gowns and hit the altar. While the revelation itself has been subject to online controversy from viewers, the performances of the cast, including supporting actress Alana Haim ('One Battle After Another'), were praised. Available to rent on May 5. (Amazon Prime Video)

2023. (Props to them for getting so close to the cultural reset that was 'Barbie.') This time around, Bowser Jr. is the Koopa that's wreaking havoc in honor of his father, Bowser (Black), by kidnapping Princess Rosalina (voiced by new addition Brie Larson) in order to steal her power away. Other new additions in the film include Donald Glover ('Atlanta') as the iconic dinosaur Yoshi, as well as Glen Powell ('How to Make a Killing') as Fox McCloud. (YouTube)

'Hoppers' (PG) — It's a good week for a family movie marathon at home! This sci-fi comedy from Pixar Animation Studios stars Piper Curda ('May December') and Bobby Moynihan ('Saturday Night Live'), and it didn't do half-bad at the box office — pulling in about \$375 million against its \$150 million budget. Curda voices a 19-year-old student named Mabel, who has had a passion for animals since her childhood, when she bonded with her grandmother over nature and its magnificent creatures. As certain creatures' habitats start to get threatened by incoming infrastructure, Mabel has the bright idea to use her colleagues' new Hoppers technology to literally 'hop into' a robotic animal and lure the animals back to their natural habitats. What could go wrong?! The film is out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Bradley Cooper has committed to writing, directing and starring in a prequel for the 'Ocean's' franchise. There have been five 'Ocean's' films — 'Ocean's 11' (1960), the remake 'Ocean's Eleven' (2001), 'Ocean's Twelve' (2004), 'Ocean's Thirteen' (2007), and 'Ocean's 8' (2018). The franchise has made over \$1.4 billion. Margot Robbie will also be producing and starring with Cooper in the prequel. They're aiming for a June 2027 release.

Also in the works is a new 'Superman' movie. 'Man of Tomorrow' has David Corenswet returning as the Man of Steel and Nicholas Hoult starring as Lex Luthor again, as well as Rachel Brosnahan returning as Lois Lane and Nathan Fillion ('The Rookie') as Guy Gardner. Corenswet's also in the upcoming 'Supergirl' film starring Milly Alcock, Matthias Schoenaerts and Jason Momoa, and it's due on June 26. In addition, he's the lead of an untitled sports biopic of New York Giants footballer John Tuggle, and it opens on Christmas Day.

Hoult has 'How to Rob a Bank' releasing on Sept. 4 with Zoe Kravitz, John C. Reilly, and Christian Slater. Meanwhile, Brosnahan has 'Saturn Return' with Will Poulter and David Morse in the can, and she's also completed 'Lear Rex' with Al Pacino and Jessica Chastain. Both films don't have their release dates yet.

My longtime friend of 50 years Sid Krofft left us this past April. Sid and his brother, Marty, were born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and they were of Greek and Hungarian origin. Cydus Yolas (Sid's birth name) worked in Vaudeville, as well as the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. He was a master puppeteer who created 'Les Poupees de Paris' (1957) with his brother.

Eventually, as the duo became known as Sid and Marty, they started creating Saturday morning shows for



Television creator, writer and puppeteer Sid Krofft (1929-2026)

kids of all ages. It began with 'The Bugaloos' (1970), 'Lidsville' (1971), 'Sigmund and the Sea Monsters' (1973-1975), and their biggest hit 'Land of the Lost' (1974-1976).

In 2009, Universal Pictures produced a 'Land of the Lost' film based on their series but without their participation, and it starred Will Ferrell and Danny McBride. It wasn't a success because Ferrell overwhelmed the dinosaurs!

This past September, after I wrote in this column about a remake of 'Land of the Lost' for the big screen that was in the works, I texted Sid a copy of the column. He texted back: 'Tony! It's great to hear from you. Thank you for thinking about me, and it has been a long time! Looks like you are still rocking and rolling. What a great piece you wrote on 'Land of the Lost.' I agree. Love, Sid.' He was 96 years young.

I remember when I was shooting stills of 'Land of the Lost' in 1976, and Sid told me, 'You know when I go, this is where I'm going ... to the 'Land of the Lost!''

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Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle by Henry Boltinoff with two panels and instructions

April 27, 2026 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword grid and word list (ACROSS, DOWN)

Thru Test Answers: 1. Henry; 2. Bucket; 3. Isthmus of Suez; 4. 23; 5. Igneous; 6. 'Just one more thing'; 7. Southwest Airlines; 8. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune; 9. Nearly one-third of the world's population; 10. An herbivore

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions and answers



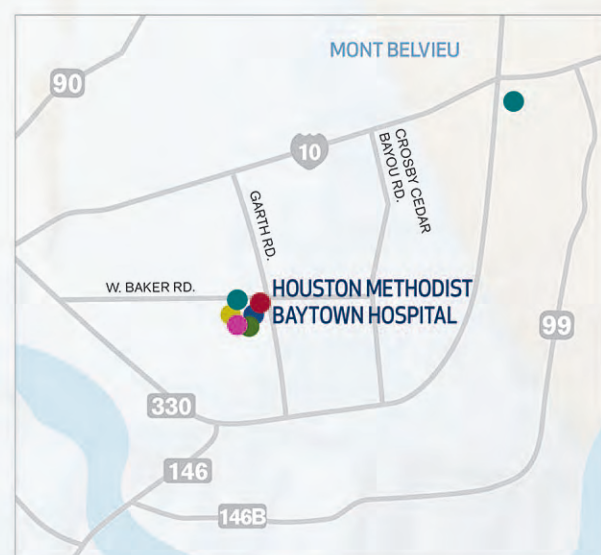
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