



Dave Campbell's Texas Football Magazine described GCM quarterback Ricco Richards as a "true Dual-threat dynamo". See story below.

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

Harris County Commissioners unite on local priorities

Historic Highlands Chamber luncheon brings two county commissioners to one table

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Greater Highlands Chamber of Commerce made history at its September luncheon, hosting Harris County Commissioners Adrian Garcia and Tom Ramsey together for the first time in the organization's history.

During an extended question-and-answer session, the Precinct 2 and Precinct 3 commissioners discussed transportation, homelessness, water and drainage infrastructure, environmental cleanup and their priorities for Highlands.

Ramsey said Main Street generally divides the two precincts in the community, with Precinct 3 extending north and Garcia's Precinct 2 covering

areas to the south and west. But both emphasized that government services—and especially emergency response—do not stop at precinct lines.

"When we have some kind of weather event coming our way or that's been here and gone, that's when we don't care where Main Street is at," Garcia said. "We don't care where the lines are at. We're both in it to help each other out to help you."

Ramsey agreed, saying the precinct offices regularly support one another on road maintenance, drainage and other infrastructure work.

"Our offices work well together," Ramsey said. "When you're maintaining roads or you're cleaning out ditches or whatever, you've got precincts work-



Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey addresses the chamber audience last Thursday at the monthly luncheon on projects in the area and answering questions.



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia answered questions at the recent Greater Highlands Chamber of Commerce luncheon featuring himself and his Commissioner's Court colleague Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey.



Chamber leadership welcomed Harris County Commissioners Tom Ramsey and Adrian Garcia to their September luncheon for a conversation on issues related to the greater Highlands community.

ing, backing each other up a lot."

Transportation emerged as one of the luncheon's central topics. Both commissioners described TxDOT as an essential partner but voiced frustration with the time required to advance major projects.

Garcia singled out State Highway 225 as a regional economic priority because of its role in moving freight from the Port of Houston.

"225 is a mess," Garcia said. "The food you eat, the cookies, the water, the Topo Chico—everything is generally coming through the Port of Houston. And if we

can't get that freight out to the stores so that you can buy it fast enough, the price goes up."

Ramsey criticized the projected timeline for improvements.

"I think it's outrageous

Continued. See HISTORIC HIGHLANDS CHAMBER, Page 6

IN THE STARS

Chamber to Host 'Stronger Together' Luncheon

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce will host its September monthly luncheon, themed "Stronger Together," on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Crosby Community Center, 409 Hare Road.

The luncheon will focus on "Breaking Barriers. Building Connections. Growing Our Community," and will provide an opportunity for local business owners, professionals and community leaders to network and learn about community opportunities.

Early-bird tickets are \$25 through Sept. 14. Tickets purchased after Sept. 14 or at the door are \$30. Reservations are required to ensure an accurate food count.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce at

281-328-6984.

The chamber also lists www.crosbyhuffmancc.org as its website.

CHCC Calls for Sponsors Ahead of Clean Up Day

The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce (CHCC) is seeking local business partners to help make Clean Up Day Crosby a success.

Scheduled for **October 17th**, the community-wide event aims to bring neighbors together to beautify Crosby's streets, parks, and neighborhoods—one area at a time.

To fund the necessary supplies and maximize the event's reach, CHCC is currently offering two sponsorship tiers:

- Glove Sponsor (\$500): Provides exclusive recognition on all event promotions, logo placement on event signage, a dedicated social media shout-out, and the opportunity to include promotional items in volunteer clean-up bags.

- Trash Bags Sponsor (\$250): Includes recognition on promotional materials, logo placement on signage, and a social media shout-out.

To learn more or sign up to get involved, contact the Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce at (281) 328-3239 or visit www.crosbyhuffmancc.org. Let's work together to make Crosby shine!

Ricco Richards Featured Among Dave Campbell's Must-See Players

Story by: Nancy Bonds,
GCCISD Director of Communications

Goose Creek Memorial High School quarterback Ricco Richards earned statewide recognition this season with a feature in Dave Campbell's Texas Football Magazine.

Richards, a three-year starter and team captain for the Patriots, was pictured in the magazine's #MUSTSEETXHHSFB feature highlighting players to watch across Texas high school football. The publication described Richards as a "true dual-threat dynamo" after he accounted for nearly 2,700 total yards and 31 touchdowns last season.

At the helm of the GCM offense, Richards is focused on helping the Patriots build on their undefeated start to the season.

His goals include leading GCM to the playoffs and earning first-team all-district honors, but Richards is taking the season one game at a time. Each week, he focuses on the next opponent and the opportunity to help his team improve.

Richards said he is grateful for the op-



GCM quarterback Ricco Richards was pictured in Dave Campbell's Texas Football Magazine #MUSTSEETXHHSFB feature highlighting players to watch across Texas high school football. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

portunity to lead the Patriots and looks forward to continuing to compete alongside his teammates as they work toward their goals this season.

CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Crosby ISD Achieves B Rating

Dear East Harris County Families and Communities,

We have officially made it to September, and what a great start to the school year it has been! Our first full month of school is underway, and I am incredibly proud of the energy, commitment, and excitement I see throughout Crosby ISD.

Our Cougar teams have taken to the volleyball court, cross country, tennis, and football are all in full swing. There is something special about game days in Crosby, and I love to see our community come together to cheer on our students. Our student organizations are also coming together, welcoming new members, and beginning another year of making memories and building leaders. Across every campus, our teachers and staff are showing up each day with a shared purpose: to educate, encourage, and care for our students.

At our most recent Board of Trustees meeting, our Curriculum and Instruction team had the opportunity to share some exciting results from the 2025-2026 school year following the release of our TEA accountability results. Crosby ISD increased its overall



Dr. Paula Patterson
Crosby Superintendent

score from 77 to 81 points, moving from a high C to a B rating.

That growth did not happen by accident.

It is the result of targeted, purpose-driven interventions, intentional instruction, increased time on task, and a continued focus on writing and the foundational skills our students

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, page 2

Stephenses Donate Second AED to YouthReach



Having one AED on the campus of YouthReach Ministries in Sheldon wasn't enough, according to the state of Texas, so Rotarian Scott Stephens and Melody Stephens donated a second one to the boys home on Monday. They donated the first one 12 years ago and they have been regular contributors to the ministry throughout the years. The ministry works with young men with a troubled past and prepares them in a Christian environment to be real contributors to society. The ministry was founded by Curt and Shelley Williams.

Huffman Education Foundation hosting Creager during homecoming festivities

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Huffman Education Foundation is turning Homecoming into a full weekend celebration this year, inviting alumni, friends, educators, students and community supporters to reconnect, reminisce and raise money for Huffman ISD classrooms and scholarships.

The foundation's Alumni and Friends Weekend is set for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 18-19, with events stretching from the golf course to Falcon Stadium and, finally, to a Texas country concert at Lake Houston Brewery featuring Roger Creager.

The weekend begins Friday morning with the 3rd Annual Clubs for a Cause Golf Tournament at Stonebridge at Newport in Crosby. Registration opens at 7 a.m., followed by a 9 a.m. shotgun start. The tournament is billed as a day of "fun, community spirit, and meaningful impact," with proceeds supporting student scholarships, classroom grants and educational opportunities for Huffman ISD students.

The golf outing includes breakfast and lunch, beverages, mulligans, games and player gifts, making the fundraiser as much a community gathering as a competition. In keeping with the foundation's mission, or-

ganizers say the money raised helps fund innovative programs, classroom resources and opportunities that directly benefit students.

The celebration continues Friday evening with a 6 p.m. tour of the original Hargrave High School before alumni and supporters head to Falcon Stadium for the Homecoming game between the Falcons and Galena Park. During the game, milestone classes—including 1976, 1986, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2016—will be recognized with field announcements and photos. An after-game party at the Tin Cup, 24501 FM 2100 A, in Huffman will close out the first day of events.

Saturday's activities shift to Lake Houston Brewery, where an Alumni and Friends Gathering begins at noon. The weekend's signature event, "Party with a Purpose," starts in the evening with the Honky-Tonk Revivalists opening before Creager takes the stage. The concert is scheduled at Lake Houston Brewery, 10614 FM 1960 in Huffman, with event listings showing the evening fundraiser centered around live Texas country music and support for Huffman ISD stu-

Continued. See HUFFMAN HOMECOMING WEEKEND SUPPORTS STUDENTS, page 2

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Crosby ISD soars to B rating, celebrates Community & academic achievements,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

need to be successful. Most importantly, it is the result of people who refused to settle and continued to believe our students could do more.

Two areas that make me especially proud are the gains at Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School: Crosby High School increased from an 81 to an 89, putting the campus just one point away from an A, and you can believe that A is in our sights, while Crosby Middle School moved from a 72 to a 78, a six-point increase in one year, with its dedicated block schedule and strong commitment to retaining exceptional teachers playing an important role in that success; at the same time, we recognize that one of our campuses received a D rating, and we are being intentional about providing the support, resources, and focused attention needed to help that campus grow because every campus and every student deserves the opportunity to succeed.

And while academic achievement is incredibly important, our responsibility to our community extends beyond the classroom.

We also shared a strong financial report with the Board. Crosby ISD earned another A+ School FIRST rating, adopted a non-deficit budget, and received a clean audit of our finances. While we have maintained an A+ FIRST rating and a non-deficit budget in recent years, these accomplishments are worth celebrating. Being good stewards of taxpayer dollars is not simply a financial responsibility. It is a responsibility we take personally. Every dollar entrusted to Crosby ISD represents the confidence our community has placed in us, and we will continue to honor

that trust.

Behind all of these accomplishments are the people who make Crosby ISD work every single day.

Our Nutrition Services team prepares and serves fresh meals for our students. Our maintenance teams worked tirelessly to prepare our campuses and completed more than 200 work orders getting our facilities ready for the new school year. Our transportation team has worked to route more than 4,000 students who rely on our buses each day.

And did you know that our incredible cafeteria teams served more than 900,000 meals to our students during the 2025-2026 school year? When breakfasts, lunches, and snacks are included, that means our team provided more than one million items to our students.

That is what service looks like.

Of course, when we talk about serving students, there is one group that deserves a special mention: our teachers.

I have always believed that teachers are some of the most important people in a child's life. They show up every morning ready to teach, encourage, challenge, listen, and believe in our students. They truly are the superheroes of our schools.

Our Human Resources team recently shared our teaching staff numbers, and I could not be more proud of what those numbers tell us.

Five years ago, during the 2022-2023 school year, Crosby ISD had 393 teachers. This year, we have more than 450. During that same period, we have reduced the number of first-year teachers from 37 to just 14. Even more encourag-

ing, we have gone from having 23 unfilled teaching positions in 2022 to just one unfilled teaching vacancy this school year.

Those numbers represent more than statistics. They represent relationships, stability, experience, and a commitment to our students. They represent teachers choosing Crosby ISD and choosing to stay.

That makes me incredibly proud.

As we look ahead to the rest of the fall and all that this school year will bring, one word continues to come to mind:

Committed.

We are committed to our students and to providing them with opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed.

We are committed to our community and to being responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

We are committed to our staff and to building a district where people are proud to work, serve, and grow.

And we are committed to excellence—not perfection, but the constant pursuit of growth and doing better for our students each and every day.

Crosby ISD is a special place because of the people who call it home. Thank you for believing in our schools, supporting our students and staff, and standing beside us as we continue this important work.

We are Crosby ISD. We are Committed.

With Pride and a Grateful Heart,

Dr. Paula PattersonSuperintendent of SchoolsCrosby ISD

Huffman homecoming weekend supports students,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2026 HUFFMAN Alumni & Friends WEEKEND

Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19

Be a part of something special and join Huffman Education Foundation for the 2026 Alumni & Friends Weekend - celebrate the past, support the future! **Everyone is welcome!**

September 18	9 a.m.	CLUBS for a CAUSE: 3rd Annual Golf Tournament (Stonebridge)
	6 p.m.	Tour of (original) Hargrave High School
	7 p.m.	Field Announcements and Photos: Classes '76, '86, '96, '01, '06 and '16
	TBD	HOMECOMING GAME
	OPEN	After Game Party, Tin Cup
September 19	Noon	Alumni & Friends Gathering (Lake Houston Brewery)
	6 p.m.	CONCERT ROGER CREAGER with Honky-Tonk Revivalists opening (Lake Houston Brewery)

dents.

The concert also carries a local family connection. The Honky-Tonk Revivalists feature Morgan Creager Marley, a Huffman native and Hargrave High School Class of 2007 graduate, who will help open the evening with a blend of classic country roots and modern honky-tonk energy. Organizers describe the concert as a celebration of family, community and Falcon pride.

For Huffman, the weekend represents more than a reunion. The Huffman Education Foundation was founded in 2015 and, according to information provided for the event, has awarded 92 scholarships to Huffman students and more than \$628,866 in classroom grants to educators. Those grants have ranged from \$500 to more than \$17,000, helping teachers bring creative and innovative projects into their classrooms.

That mission gives the week-

end its larger purpose: celebrating the past while investing in the future. From alumni walking the halls of the original high school to former classmates gathering under Friday night lights, the events are designed to connect generations of Falcons while raising money for the next one.

The weekend also includes a 2026 Alumni Weekend Silent Auction running Sept. 6-19, with dozens of donated items listed online, including local experiences, sports memorabilia, vacation packages, dining opportunities and a signed Roger Creager guitar.

Creager's appearance gives the foundation a marquee name with deep Texas roots. A Corpus Christi native, Roger Creager is known for high-energy live shows, loyal fans and music shaped by both Texas country tradition and his adventurous lifestyle. His official biography describes him as an "adventurist"

whose travels — from climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to surfing in Costa Rica and playing music across the world — find their way into his songwriting and performances.

Creager, whose fan favorites include "The Everclear Song," "Love" and "Turn It Up," is also scheduled to perform at the Lake Houston Brewery Huffman Education Foundation fundraiser as part of his current tour calendar.

For organizers, the message is simple: everyone is welcome. Alumni and Friends Weekend invites former students, parents, educators, residents and supporters to take part in a two-day celebration of Huffman's history and future.

"Come celebrate the past, support the future," the event promotion says — a fitting theme for a weekend built around Homecoming, scholarships, classroom grants and the enduring pride of the Falcon community.

Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 560 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, Texas 77027 . Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal: Elizabeth Diaz, Bryan Thomas, Daniel Joyce, Christina Cornelius

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Brittani Williams

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.50000 /\$100 Adopted	\$1.50000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$247,850.00	\$243,437.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$247,850.00	\$243,437.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,717.75	\$3,651.56
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$-66.20 -1.78%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

The Property Tax Assistance Division at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts provides property tax information and resources for taxpayers, local taxing entities, appraisal districts and appraisal review boards.

For more information, visit our website:
comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax

Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 578 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 7, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at 9 Greenway Plaza Ste 1000 Houston, TX 77046. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/Property Taxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal: Sam Cooke, Terry Sue O'Kelly, Lauren Brigance, Christopher G Townsend

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Alissa Payne

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.45000 /\$100 Adopted	\$1.45000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$230,055.00	\$243,055.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$230,055.00	\$243,055.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,335.80	\$3,524.30
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$188.50 5.65%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Saturday, Oct. 10.

Old River Winfree Founders Day

The ORW Founders Day Free Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the fairgrounds, 4818 FM North 565, Old River-Winfree.

The family event will feature live and silent auctions, with 90% of proceeds benefiting the Chambers County Veterans Association and 10% going toward Barbers Hill scholarships.

Entertainment will include the North Harris County Dulcimers, Buddy Graves and the ORW Band, John Farley and the River Bottom Boys. The festival also will feature historical exhibits, including the Boyce Morris Historical Artifact Exhibit, the Texas Army and the 1st Texas Naval Squadron.

Other activities include a car, truck and motorcycle show, the Ethel P. Ramsey Bake-Off, free carnival-type rides, a petting zoo, face painting and free bingo. Senior citizens ages 55 and older can participate in bingo at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For information, call 832-367-2245 or 281-385-1735.

Barbers Hill ISD Bans on E-Bikes



MONT BELVIEU - Barbers Hill ISD will prohibit the use of e-bikes and electric scooters on all district property beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

The decision comes in response to the growing number of e-bikes and electric scooters being used by students and the increasing safety concerns associated with their operation near campuses, parking lots, sidewalks, and roadways.

"Our first responsibility is to protect the safety of our students, staff, and visitors," Superintendent Greg Poole said. "The popularity of e-bikes and electric scooters has increased dramatically, but so have the risks. After carefully evaluating the situation, we believe prohibiting these devices on district property is the best way to help prevent a serious accident."

The ban applies to all Barbers Hill ISD campuses and facilities. Students and visitors are asked not to ride or bring e-bikes or electric scooters onto district property.

MBPD Honors Women Serving in Law Enforcement

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

MONT BELVIEU — The Mont Belvieu Police Department recognized the contributions of its women officers during National Police Women's Day, highlighting the growing role women play in law enforcement.

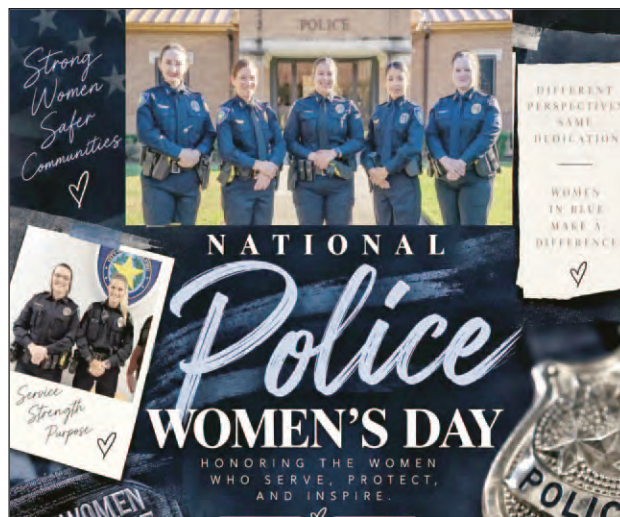
Women account for less than 14% of sworn law enforcement officers nationwide, according to the department. At MBPD, women make up 23% of the

department's sworn officers, with eight women currently serving.

The department recognized the officers for their service to the Mont Belvieu community and their contributions both on the job and within the department.

MBPD officials noted that the women bring a range of strengths and perspectives to their work, including compassion, dedication and a commitment to public service.

Their responsibilities



include protecting residents, assisting fellow officers and responding to people during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

The MB Police department said the observance provided an opportunity to recognize the women who serve in its ranks and the role they play in strengthening the department and the community.

"Strong women. Strong department. Stronger community," MBPD said in its recognition.

Chambers County Mourns Constable John Mulryan

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

CHAMBERS COUNTY — Chambers County Constable John Mulryan died on September 7, after a long battle with cancer, leaving behind a legacy of public service and a community mourning the loss of a longtime peace officer.

Sheriff Brian Hawthorne announced Mulryan's death, remembering him as a respected member of the community and a dedi-



cated public servant.

Hawthorne said those who knew Mulryan recognized him as a "gentle giant" who was deeply loved by those around him. To members of the Chambers County Sheriff's Office, Hawthorne said, Mulryan was more than a fellow law enforcement officer.

"He was a true servant," Hawthorne said, recalling Mulryan's kind heart and commitment to the community.

Hawthorne also expressed condolences to Mulryan's family and friends, thanking them for the sacrifices that allowed him to devote much of his life to serving others.

"He was a pillar of this community," Hawthorne said, adding that Mulryan's fellow officers would remember him as

a friend and a man who consistently helped others.

The sheriff concluded his tribute with a passage from Matthew 5:9: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Mulryan's death was met with condolences from those who knew him and worked alongside him in service to Chambers County.

MB Fire & EMS Department Receives Fire Prevention kit

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

MONT BELVIEU — The Mont Belvieu Fire & EMS Department received a fire prevention kit from Renee Thibodeaux State Farm as part of a community partnership supporting local fire safety education.

The department said the kit will assist first responders in educating residents and promoting



important fire prevention and safety practices throughout Mont Belvieu.

Department officials thanked Renee Thibodeaux State Farm for its support and investment in the safety and well-being of the community.

The donation was accompanied by a sweet treat from Crumbl, which the department described as a welcome bonus.

BCC Celebrates Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening for Bay Area Barber and Cosmetology College

Baytown, Texas – The Baytown Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening celebration for Bay Area Barber and Cosmetology College, a new addition to the local business and educational community dedicated to shaping the next generation of skilled professionals in the beauty and barbering industry.

In addition to the ribbon cutting held on Thursday, April 29th, Bay Area Barber and Cosmetology College will host a Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, May 2nd, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and the public is warmly invited to attend, tour the facility and learn more about the programs offered. They are located at 220 N. Main Street, Suite 150, Baytown, TX.

The college is also excited to announce that classes will officially begin on Monday, May 4th, marking the start of hands-on training for its inaugural group of students.

Bay Area Barber and Cosme-

tology College offers comprehensive training programs designed to equip students with the hands-on skills, knowledge and confidence needed to succeed in today's competitive beauty industry. With a focus on both technical expertise and professional development, the college aims to create career-ready graduates who will contribute to the local workforce and economy.

"We are excited to welcome Bay Area Barber and Cosmetology College to Baytown", said Tammy Moyers Martinez, Member Services Director for the Baytown Chamber of Commerce. "Their commitment to education and workforce development aligns perfectly with our mission to support business growth and community advancement."

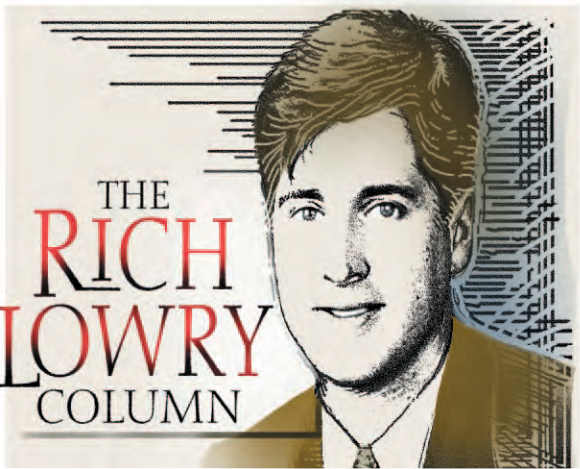
The Baytown Chamber of Commerce encourages the community to come out and celebrate this exciting new business and the opportunities it brings to the area.



Co-Owners Daniel Cantu and Linda Cantu along with Baytown Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors

For more information about Bay Area Barber and Cosmetology College, please visit their website txbayareabarbercollege.com.

Current and Back Issues are available
on our website: www.starcouriernews.com



Ten years later, Kaepernick remains unpersuasive

A decade later, Colin Kaepernick is as tiresome as ever. To mark the 10-year anniversary of his kneeling during the National Anthem, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback is out with a new memoir, “The Perilous Fight.” (Get it?)

In an interview with NBC News in advance of the book’s release, which he clearly imagines as part of a vindication tour, he proved himself as committed to woke racial politics as ever.

He told NBC that his protests were about fighting “police killing black folks” and “systemic oppression.” He added that he was thinking — not very modestly — about the Montgomery bus boycotts, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King while he took a knee.

It’s certainly true that Kaepernick sacrificed his career to his protests, although he was a marginal player by the end. In his prime, Kaepernick was a top-notch athlete and electric performer. No one can take his exemplary 2012 and 2013 seasons away from him. In one playoff game in 2012, he passed for 263 yards and ran for 181, a single-game record for rushing by an NFL quarterback.

He couldn’t maintain this level of performance, though. In 2015, he lost his starting job to journeyman Blaine Gabbert. He won it back for a time in 2016, although he got benched during one game after throwing for all of 4 yards. The 49ers went 1-10 when he started, and by one metric, he ranked 23rd out of 30 qualifying quarterbacks. So he was hardly the GOAT, instead once-very-good, now-mediocre. Then there was the issue that his style of play didn’t necessarily fit in most offensive schemes.

Layer on top of this the circus he’d bring to town with his kneeling and it’s understandable that teams didn’t find him an alluring proposition in 2017 when he was a free agent. There were myriad options available as backup quarterbacks who weren’t notorious for disrespecting the national anthem immediately prior to games.

TITLE: None of this would have mattered if Kaepernick had maintained his 2012 level of play; in that hypothetical, teams would have signed him even if he started to do the black power salute during huddles.

Kaepernick has now worked himself into a position where he’s compared NFL players to enslaved people (in an absurd Netflix documentary), and he’s bitter that he isn’t numbered among them as a 38-year-old who hasn’t played in 10 years.

Then there’s the substance of his advocacy. The high-water mark for Kaepernick’s anti-police worldview came in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, when the NFL basically apologized for not listening to his supposed wisdom and the police were put on their back foot in many cities around the country.

The result was an increase in violent crime that, of course, disproportionately victimized black people. The country has now recovered from this idiocy — based on the lie that the police indiscriminately kill black people — and the country is much safer for the people who Kaepernick purports to care most about. If we ever go anywhere near his preferred policy of abolishing the police and prisons, we’d instantly create the worst crime wave in the country’s history.

Kaepernick is sometimes compared to Muhammad Ali. The legendary boxer sacrificed part of his career by claiming conscientious objector status during the Vietnam War. Ali was hated for a time, but his true greatness as a boxer, his incandescent charisma and his outsized place in the culture allowed him to transcend that political controversy and become a beloved American figure.

That is not going to happen to Colin Kaepernick, whose claim to fame is kneeling on the sidelines during some NFL games. He’s very dismissive of the enduring change wrought in the NFL by his protests and the tumult after 2020. The league has painted the words “End Racism” in end zones. Kaepernick rightly considers these pointless messages performative, but so was his scorn for the anthem of his own country a decade ago.

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

By Gary Borders



More than a dozen school districts face state takeover in 2027

More than a dozen Texas school districts could be taken over by the state next year if they do not improve student performance before next year’s A-F accountability ratings, according to The Texas Tribune. At least 14 districts had at least one school campus with a failing grade, according to this year’s preliminary ratings. Under state law, the Texas education commissioner must take over any district that receives five consecutive failing ratings — or close that failing school.

After a takeover, the district’s elected board of trustees is replaced with an appointed board of managers for at least two years.

Campuses under threat of closure next year are in the following districts: Clarksville, Cleveland, Coldspring-Oakhurst, Elgin, Judson, Kingsville, Manor, Nacogdoches, Poetee, Runge, San Angelo, San Antonio, Spring and Waco.

Districts have until Sept. 11 to appeal a school’s grade rating.

NEW LAWS TOOK EFFECT IN TEXAS ON SEPT. 1

A bevy of new laws took effect Sept. 1, according to the Standard, including changes to how consumers can repair electronic devices, greater regulation of residential solar sales, and the allowance of certain forms of gold and silver as legal tender.

House Bill 2963 requires electronics manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair businesses with the parts, tools, and documentation they need on “fair and reasonable terms.” That requirement applies to consumer electronics with a wholesale price of at least \$50, but only to items offered for sale in the state after Sept. 1.

The measure contains numerous exemptions, including many motor vehicles, farm equipment,



large home appliances, and video-game consoles.

Another legal change requires residential solar system salespeople to register with the state and to work for a registered solar retailer. Consumer advocates said complaints about solar panels submitted to the attorney general increased by 818% between 2018 and 2023.

Another law recognizes qualifying privately produced silver and gold specie as legal tender in the state. The state comptroller is responsible for approving a system allowing electronic payments backed by bullion.

LAWMAKERS LOOKING TO FURTHER CUT SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES

A Senate analysis indicates that nearly 40% of Texas homeowners pay no school property taxes. Some legislators hope to increase that share in the upcoming regular session, which begins in January. The Houston Chronicle reported that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick directed a Senate committee to assess the impact of increased homestead exemptions in past years, with the possibility of raising them further next session.

Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, chairs that committee and has been at the forefront of efforts to expand homestead exemptions. Currently, the first \$140,000 of a residence’s taxable value is exempt. For those over 65 or with

disabilities, the exemption rises to \$200,000.

Patrick hopes to raise the homestead exemption to \$180,000 and to lower the age at which homeowners qualify for a senior exemption from 65 to 55. For his part, Abbott is pushing a constitutional amendment that would eliminate school property taxes for homeowners.

“The state will fully fund public education without you having to pay for it in your homestead,” Abbott said. “The amount you get on your bill from the local school district that you pay in property taxes should be zero dollars for the rest of your ownership of that house.”

GOP SET TO GATHER IN DALLAS FOR MIDTERM CONVENTION

President Trump and other GOP leaders hope this week’s midterm convention in Dallas will help the party win roughly 35 races that could determine control of Congress, according to The Dallas Morning News. The Senate race between Ken Paxton and James Talarico is, by all indications, among the biggest.

Trump appeared on Patrick’s podcast to promote the convention being held at American Airlines Center, home of the Dallas Mavericks. It is expected to draw 20,000 attendees over two days.

The first-of-its-kind midterm convention is intended to generate enthusiasm for the GOP candidates in what is predicted to be a tough election year for the party.

TALARICO ACCEPTS CNN DEBATE INVITATION; PAXTON MUM

Talarico last week accepted CNN’s debate invitation, marking the fourth time the Senate Democratic nominee has agreed to debate Paxton, the Republican nominee. Paxton has indicated he would debate his opponent but hasn’t committed to a specific event, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

“I’ve accepted the debate because I answer to the people of Texas — [Paxton] won’t because he answers to his billionaire holders,” Talarico said.

Paxton has not debated an opponent since before he was elected to statewide office in 2014. His senior adviser said in mid-August that Paxton would debate Talarico, and expected an announcement to be “forthcoming shortly.”

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park.

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Interesting as a Caterpillar



It’s caterpillar season. I remembered this yesterday as I sat out on the deck with my parents and two of their oldest friends at their cabin “up north.” We noticed as a tiny, furry ball began descending from the trees far overhead. Lower and lower it dropped until it was just over our heads.

“What is that?” my mother asked. We didn’t know.

At this point, the furry ball seemed to know it had an audience and began to swing, just a little at first, but soon in wider and wider arcs as the wind picked up. It lowered and then raised itself on its invisible line as it swooped forward and back and around. It was an impressive aerial show, and all the more so when I learned it was a tiny, furry caterpillar.

The caterpillar was engaged in something called “ballooning,” a verb I had only heard used to mean when something got bigger. In this case, it meant swinging in the wind at the end of a long silk line from the tree branches high overhead. The goal of ballooning, I learned, was to find a new and suitable place to live. It was the most exciting form of house hunting I’d ever seen.

Five adults, four of them over 90, sat transfixed by this little caterpillar zooming overhead in circles.

“If anyone asks what I did today, I’ll tell them I watched a worm,” my mother’s friend, Char, observed.

“There are worse ways to spend a day,” I noted.

The tiny moth caterpillar, flying around like a miraculous aerial artist, finally landed in Char’s hair. Char did not think she would be a suitable home for this tiny, adventurous creature, and the caterpillar disappeared under the deck. We will never know what it did after that.

I’d just been thinking a lot about caterpillars, as the monarch caterpillars are hard at work eating milkweed and making chrysalises. I remember as a second grader having a monarch caterpillar in a jar in our classroom. We started with an egg, already attached to milkweed. The caterpillar emerged from the egg and got busy eating immediately. It grew with astonishing speed and eventually hung off the milkweed in the shape of a J.

Then the fascinated second graders watched it spin its chrysalis, a bright green pea pod with a golden seam. The chrysalis would gradually change color, becoming more and more transparent until, one day, the butterfly emerged from the chrysalis, fully formed. We watched it slowly stretch and spread its beautiful orange wings, and then the second graders would troop out onto the playground to release this magnificent creature.

It was astonishing. But it was not as astonishing as what happened next. After that, the caterpillar, who had spent her early autumn turning herself into a butterfly in our second-grade classroom, would fly all the way to Mexico.

All of this leads me to believe that my life will never be as interesting as a caterpillar’s.

We compare ourselves to butterflies when we talk about making big changes or becoming a better version of ourselves. I think it is a good metaphor, and I find butterflies inspiring—particularly when they head off to Mexico, fresh out of a jar, without a GPS or map.

But it’s good to remember that before there was a butterfly, there was a daring and diligent little caterpillar. They are not as beautiful as butterflies, perhaps, but they get the work done—whether it’s spinning a chrysalis or ballooning from a 60-foot thread, dancing in the wind.

Till next time,
Carrie

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SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 3

UH, Tech face off in early-season Big 12 showdown:

Texans face another top QB when Burrow and Bengals visit

The No. 23-ranked Houston Cougars head to Lubbock for a Friday night showdown with No. 12-ranked Texas Tech in a key early season Big 12 game. It's only week three for both teams, but the winner of this game could be in position to control the conference.

The game will be nationally broadcast on FOX at 7 p.m. A year ago, the Red Raiders came into the Coogs' house and left with a dominating 35-11 victory. Both teams opened their 2026 seasons with wins in Week 1 as UH held off Oregon State at home 33-20, while Tech took care of business at home against Abilene Christian with a 33-10 victory. It should be noted the Tech defense did not give up a touchdown (Abilene Christian scored their lone touchdown on a kickoff return late in the game) and looks just as good as the 2025 squad did. That's not good news for the rest of the Big 12.

The offense did struggle in the Red Zone as Tech only scored three touchdowns and settled for four field goals when it got in close. Something tells me head coach Joey McGuire and his staff will get things figured out on that side of the ball. UH might benefit from the fact that the Red Raiders have to a long trip to Oregon State the week before this game, then head back early Sunday to prepare for a short week to take on a very talented UH team.

While the UH-Tech game is one of the marquee games of Week 3, there's another big win in the SEC as No. 11-ranked LSU visits No. 9-ranked Ole Miss, as former Rebels coach Lane Kiffin returns to his old stomping grounds after bolting for Baton Rouge last December prior to the College Football Playoffs. You had better bet Ole Miss fans will be at full throat and give Kiffin all he can handle come Saturday night in the nationally televised game at 6:30 p.m. on ABC.

Kiffin got his new team off to a very solid start in Week 1 with a 51-10 thrashing of Clemson, while Ole Miss won a thrilling 41-38 barn burner over Louisville.

Speaking of Louisville, the No. 24-ranked Cardinals will host No. 14-ranked SMU in a key ACC game.



Other top games this weekend will pit No. 3-ranked Georgia visiting Arkansas in their SEC debut against the Razorbacks new head coach Ryan Silverfield, who won his first game in Little Rock by defeating Northern Alabama 31-14, while Kirby Smart's team rolled to a 63-3 route of Tennessee State.

There could be a good one in the SEC as Florida visits Auburn in a meeting of new head coaches. The Gators new head man, Jon Summerall, got off to a solid start in Gainesville with a 66-21 thrashing of FAU, while Auburn's new head coach, Alex Golesh, saw his team win a squeaker over Baylor, 17-16, as the defense snubbed out a two-point attempt with just nine seconds to go.

Week two in the NFL starts with Thursday Night Football as Detroit visits Buffalo as the Bills open their new digs, Highmark Stadium on Netflix.

The Texans host another top 10 QB when Joe Burrow and the Cincinnati Bengals visit NRG Stadium at noon on CBS.

Other interesting games have Jacksonville visiting Denver, Pittsburgh visiting New England and the Cowboys hosting Washington in their home opener. Indianapolis visits Kansas City on Sunday Night Football on NBC, and Week 2 concludes with the New York Giants visiting the Los Angeles Rams on Monday Night Football on ABC.

NCAA
Houston at Texas Tech - A big early-season showdown for these two Big 12 contenders on Friday night in Lubbock. The game will be nationally televised on FOX (Channel 26 locally) and begin at 7 p.m. A year ago, the Tech defense dominated UH in Houston as the Red Raiders rolled to a 35-11 win. Both teams opened their respective seasons with wins as the Coogs defeated Oregon

State, 33-20, while the Red Raiders took care of Abilene Christian, 33-10. UH struggled in the secondary against the Beavers, allowing 376 passing yards, while the Tech offense struggled in the Red Zone and settled for four field goals instead of touchdowns. Tech QB Will Hammond looked solid (298 yards, 1 TD) in the opener, but the running game struggled. Look for J'Koby Williams (71 yards, 1 TD) and Cameron Dickey to get rolling against UH. The Coogs will look for another big game from QB Conner Weigman (305 yards, 1 TD) and running backs Makhi Hughes (98 yards, 1 TD) and Re'Shaun Sanford II (75 yards, 1 TD). Look for the Tech defense (3 sacks, one interception) to be the difference maker in this one as the Red Raiders pick up a big league win. My pick, Texas Tech 34, Houston 14

Georgia at Arkansas - No. 3-ranked Georgia heads to Arkansas to take on the Razorbacks and their new head coach, Ryan Silverfield. Silverfield had a successful debut two weeks ago leading his team to a 31-14 win over Northern Alabama, but they face a totally different beast this Saturday when the Bulldogs come calling. The 'Dawgs rolled to a 63-3 win in their opener. Look for Georgia QB Gunner Stockton (202 yards, 3 TDs), running back Nate Frazier (72 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers Jeremy Bell, Jordan Reddola and Elyss Williams (all caught TDs in the opener) to have big days in Fayetteville. My pick, Georgia 36, Arkansas 13

SMU at Louisville - No. 17-SMU meets No. 24-ranked Louisville in a big early-season ACC game as the Mustangs hit the road for the second time in three weeks. SMU opened the season with an exciting 27-24 road win at Florida State, while the Cardinals dropped a heartbreaker to Ole Miss, 41-38. The Ville will look for another big game from QB Lincoln Klienholz (307

passing yards, 2 TDs/69 rushing yards, 1 TD) and wideout Tre Richardson (4 receptions, 83 yards, 1 TD). SMU has a few offensive weapons itself in QB Kevin Jennings (430 yards, 3 TDs), wide receiver Yannick Smith (5 receptions, 107 yards, 1 TD) and tight end Randy Pittman Jr. (5 receptions, 75 yards, 1 TD). This should be an offensive shootout. Look for Jenning to make a few more plays than his Louisville counterpart as the Mustangs pick up another big road win. My pick, SMU 34, Louisville 31

Florida at Auburn - The Gators and Tigers open SEC play with new head coaches as Jon Summerall leads Florida and Alex Golesh will lead the Tigers. Both men won their first games at their new schools as the Gators rolled to a 66-21 win over FAU, and Auburn eked out a 17-16 win over Baylor. Florida will look for another big game from running back Jaden Baugh (160 yards, 3 TDs), QB Aaron Philo (275 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Vernell Brown III (6 receptions, 117 yards, 1 TD). Auburn will look for dual-threat QB Byron Brown (259 passing yards/27 rushing yards, 1 TD) to be a difference maker come Saturday. My pick, Florida 25, Auburn 23

LSU at Ole Miss - No. 8 LSU visits No. 9 Ole Miss as Lane Kiffin returns to Oxford, from where he bolted for his new gig last December prior to the CFP. Kiffin and his team can expect a very hostile greeting and will take on a fired-up Rebels team that opened the season with a 41-38 last-second win over Louisville two weeks ago. Kiffin got his LSU career off to an impressive start with a 51-10 beat down of Clemson. This game will feature two of the top dual-threat

QB's in the Tigers Sam Leavitt (230 passing yards, 1 TD/113 rushing yards, 2 TDs) and Ole Miss' Trinidad Chambliss (336 passing yards, 3 TDs/60 rushing yards, 1 TD). LSU will also look for big games from running back Dillon Jones (113 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Winston Watkins Jr. (7 receptions, 110 yards, 1 TD). Ole Miss hopes running back Kewan Lacy (61 yards) will be able to play in this one. He sustained a bruised knee in the first half against Louisville, but the injury does not appear to be serious. Chambliss will also look to make plays in the passing game to wide receiver Deuce Alexander (5 receptions, 159 yards, 2 TDs).

Look for the Ole Miss crowd to be the 12th man in this game as the Rebels win a shootout. My pick, Ole Miss 36, LSU 33

NFL
Detroit at Buffalo - Week 2 kicks off on Thursday Night Football on Amazon Prime with a good one as the Lions visit the Bills, who will be playing their first regular season game in their new home, Highmark Stadium. This game will pit two of the league's top offenses. Detroit is led by QB Jared Goff, running back Jahmyr Gibbs, wideouts Amon-Ra St. Brown and Jameson Williams and tight end Sam LaPorta. The Bills will counter with Josh Allen, perhaps the top signal caller in the league, productive running back James Cook and new wide receiver D.J. Moore. This should be a fun game to watch. Look for Allen to make a few more plays down the stretch than Goff to lead his team to the win. My pick, Buffalo 33, Detroit 30

Cincinnati at Houston - The Texans face their second top 10 QB in two weeks when Joe Burrow and the Bengals visit NRG Stadium at noon on CBS. The Texans top-ranked defense will have its hands full with Burrow, running back Chase Brown and wideouts Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins. The Texans offense should be able to make plays against a suspect Bengals defense. Look for QB C.J. Stroud to make plays downfield to Nico Collins, while running back David Montgomery has a big day on the ground. My pick, Houston 24, Cincinnati 18

Jacksonville at Denver - The Jaguars head to the Rocky Mountains to take on a solid Denver team. Look for the Denver defense to make this a long afternoon for Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence. Their pass rush will harass Lawrence all afternoon and very well could force a turnover or two. On offense, the Broncos will look for a big day from QB Bo Nix and his two solid wideouts, Cortland Sutton and Jaylen Waddle. Look for the Broncos to send an early-season message to the rest of the AFC that they are indeed the team to beat in the conference this year. My pick, Denver 31, Jacksonville 13

Pittsburgh at New England - Aaron Rodgers and the Steelers head to Foxborough to face the defending AFC champs in their home opener. New England had a few extra

days to prepare for this game after opening the season at Seattle last Wednesday. Look for NE QB Drake Maye to attack the Steelers defense with strikes downfield to wide receiver A.J. Brown. Rodgers will look to make plays to his two dependable wideouts in DK Metcalf and Michael Pittman Jr. Look for NE to protect its home field as its defense is the difference maker in this game. My pick, New England 26, Pittsburgh 17

Washington at Dallas - The Cowboys host the Commanders in their home opener at 3:25 p.m. on Sunday and will look to make it two in a row over NFC East foes (Dallas opened the season against the Giants). Look for the Cowboys offense to roll against a suspect Washington defense as QB Dak Prescott will have a big day throwing to CeeDee Lamb and George Pickens. Running back Javonte Williams will take care of the ground game. The revamped Dallas defense will need to contain Washington dual-threat QB Jayden Daniels, but something tells me that unit will get the job done. My pick, Dallas 33, Washington 17

Indianapolis at Kansas City - The Colts visit the Chiefs on Sunday Night Football on NBC. Look for KC QB Patrick Mahomes to have a big night against a so-so Indy defense. He should get a lot of help from new running back Kenneth Walker III, wide receiver Rashee Rice and tight end Travis Kelce. Look for the revamped Chiefs defense to make it a long night for Colts QB Daniel Jones. My pick, Kansas City 27, Indianapolis 13

New York Giants at Los Angeles Rams - Week 2 concludes on Monday Night Football as the Giants head across the country to take on a Rams team that opened the season last Thursday against the 49ers in Melbourne, Australia. LA should be over its jet lag and will be playing its home opener. Look for QB Matthew Stafford, running back Kyren Williams and big-play wideouts Puka Nacu and Davante Adams to have a field day against a suspect NY defense. The Rams defense should also have a big night against turnover-prone Giants QB Jaxson Dart. This one could be over by halftime. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 38, New York Giants 16

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THURSDAY
Aldine Eisenhower 28, Baytown Lee 14

FRIDAY
Barbers Hill 40, Dayton 20
Baytown Sterling 28, New Caney 27
Crosby 34, Fort Bend Marshall 14
Goose Creek Memorial 35, West Brook 28
Splendora 37, Huffman Hargrave 16

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE
FRIDAY, SEPT. 18
Barbers Hill vs. Clear Falls, 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium
Baytown Lee at Lumberton, 7 p.m., Raider Stadium
Baytown Sterling vs. Lufkin, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium
Crosby vs. North Shore, 7 p.m., Cougar Stadium
Goose Creek Memorial at La Porte, 7 p.m., Bulldog Stadium
Huffman Hargrave vs. Galena Park, 7:30 p.m., Falcon Stadium

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Historic Highlands Chamber luncheon brings two county commissioners to one table,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Recently, thieves broke in to the Highlands Little League facilities and cut out all the cables from their main power system. The thieves got away with approximately \$50 worth of copper, but cost the league \$28,000 in repairs. The Greater Highlands Chamber of Commerce contributed \$1,000 toward the effort to restore the facilities.

that it's not going to be fixed until 2032," he said, adding that county toll-road resources may offer a faster way to improve freight movement between port terminals and the Beltway.

The commissioners also addressed homelessness and its effect on businesses and neighborhoods. Ramsey credited the Harris County Sheriff's Office with balancing enforcement and assistance, saying officers try to connect people with services while also making clear that they cannot camp on property they do not own.

Garcia described the county's Employ to Empower initiative, which recruits people from encampments for paid work such as power-washing facilities, cutting weeds and collecting trash while connecting them with mental-health services and permanent supportive housing.

"We take them where they're at," Garcia said. "We put them to work ... but then we also use that time that they stay engaged with us to get them plugged into mental health

services."

On water and infrastructure, Ramsey warned that continued reliance on groundwater can cause subsidence as development expands in unincorporated Harris County. He said municipal utility districts must plan for long-term maintenance and surface-water needs.

"Water can be your friend or it can be your enemy," Ramsey said. "You've got to be putting money back for maintenance. Don't wait till it all blows up."

Garcia said flood mitigation must remain a shared priority because runoff from several counties passes through Precincts 2 and 3.

"Water doesn't care whose precinct you're in," he said. "It's important for us to work together to ensure that our projects are coordinated."

Asked what major goal they wanted to accomplish for Highlands, Ramsey pointed to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. He said construction of a cofferdam and excavation work is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2027.

"I'm going to see the waste pit on the San Jacinto River get cleaned up," Ramsey said.

He also highlighted completed work on Main Street, planned 2027 street improvements and an effort to expand lighting in Highlands.

Garcia pledged continued support for the waste-pit cleanup and identified restoring acute-care capacity in East Harris County as a major objective following the loss of a local hospital after Hurricane Harvey. He also supported expanding community lighting and said Highlands residents should guide the area's future.

"You have that small-town feel," Garcia said. "Whatever the vision of Highlands is, is the direction that Commissioner Garcia is going to be."

The historic joint appearance presented a recurring message: Although Highlands is divided politically between two precincts, its roads, waterways, public-safety needs and future remain shared responsibilities.

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Ella Beatty star in "Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story."

“Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story.”

“The 78th Primetime Emmys” (TV-PG) — It’s time for the night of the year where primetime television gets its flowers! Premiering live on Sept. 14, the Emmys will be hosted by Mariska Hargitay (“Law & Order: Special Victims Unit”), and the categories are stacked with nominees from multiple HBO shows like “The Pitt,” “Hacks,” “A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms,” and “Euphoria.” Netflix scored with nominations for shows like “Beef,” “The Beast in Me,” and “Black Rabbit.” Not to mention Apple TV’s “Widow’s Bay” and “Pluribus” with 19 and 18 nominations, respectively! In addition, Michael J. Fox will be honored during the ceremony with the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award for his charitable efforts toward Parkinson’s disease research. (Peacock)

“Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story” (TV-MA) — This could be just me, but I do enjoy seeing a nepo baby flourish in the TV and film industry every once in a while, especially when their parents are as iconic as Ella Beatty’s (“Feud: Capote vs. The Swans”). Daughter of acting legends Annette Bening (“Lucky”) and Warren Beatty (“Rules Don’t Apply”), Ella takes on the lead role of Lizzie Borden in the fourth season of the crime-drama anthology series “Monster.” Starring opposite her are Charlie Hunnam, who played the titular role of Ed Gein in the third season of “Monster,” as well as Billie Lourd and Sarah Paulson of “American Horror Story” fame. This season follows Lizzie in 1892 Massachusetts, as she becomes a primary suspect after her parents are found mur-

dered in their home with a hatchet. All eight episodes release Sept. 17. (Netflix)

“Dancing with the Stars: Season 35” (TV-PG) — Thirty-five seasons is an unbelievable feat for any television show, and with the buzz surrounding its new cast of contestants, “DWTS” still seems far from facing cancellation. (I’m not complaining, though!) “Summer House’s” Ciara Miller, who just came out of a recent scandal as a reality TV darling, was one of the first of the 16 contestants to be announced, along with “Love Island” presenter Maura Higgins. But the cast announcements that have truly rocked the world of “DWTS” fans were regarding to actress Julia Stiles from “10 Things I Hate About You,” actress/dancer Jenna Dewan from “Step Up” (get ready for all the “Wait, she can dance!” comments), and “Glee’s” Harry Shum Jr. The season’s set for a two-night premiere, beginning Sept. 15! (Disney+)

“Jay-Z in 8” (TV-14) — “Allow me to reintroduce myself,” teases Jay-Z in the trailer for this new eight-part docuseries. Sitting down with record producer/co-founder of Def Jam Recordings Rick Rubin, Jay-Z partakes in intimate discussions about his career, music, life experiences and creative processes. The black-and-white series was shot over the span of two days in a stunning and quiet hall in Paris, with Jay-Z recounting how he started writing music from the age of 9 and leading into how he produced iconic songs like “No Church in the Wild,” “99 Problems,” and “4:44.” The first two episodes premiere on Sept. 18, with new episodes coming every Friday. (HBO Max)

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Let’s take a look at the anatomy of a scandal. I met former “Full House” star Lori Loughlin when she was just 19 and starring in the daytime soap “The Edge of Night.” Now 62, she served a two-month sentence in prison after pleading guilty to wire and mail fraud in 2019, in a college scandal that was called “Operation Varsity Blues.” She basically bribed an official to get her daughter into college!

Loughlin was immediately pulled from the Hallmark Channel series “When Calls the Heart” mid-season while she was on trial. Seven years later, she’s finally returning to the Hallmark Channel for her telefilm series “Garage Sale Mystery,” as well as “When Calls the Heart” for its upcoming season.

While her career has been resuscitated, her 28-year marriage to Mossimo Giannulli hasn’t — they’ve split!



Lori Loughlin ("Garage Sale Mystery")

Glen Powell has completed Judd Apatow’s comedy film “The Comeback King” (due on Feb. 5, 2027), as well as J.J. Abrams’ sci-fi/fantasy film “The Great Beyond” with Jenna Ortega and Samuel L. Jackson (due on Oct. 1, 2027). Season two of Powell’s sports-comedy series “Chad Powers” dropped on Sept. 3, and its ratings will decide if there will be a third season.

Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey and two-time Oscar nominee Kate Hudson are reuniting for a sequel to their 2006 hit “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days” (which grossed \$177.5 million and only cost \$50 million). Did the success of “The Devil Wears Prada 2” (the original “Prada” was in 2006) have anything to do with its resurrection, as well as the upcoming sequel to 2001’s “The Princess Diaries”?

Let’s not forget Brad Pitt is returning to his character from “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood” (2019) in “The Further Misadventures of Cliff Booth,” which cost \$200 million to produce. It was directed by David Fincher and also stars Scott Caan, Carla Gugino and Timothy Olyphant. It was shot from July to October 2025. It’ll hit IMAX theaters on Nov. 25 for two weeks before dropping on Netflix on Dec. 23.

Jason Statham is as busy as a bee! In addition to completing “The Beekeeper 2” with Jeremy Irons (due on Jan. 14, 2027), he’s starring in the action-comedy film “Jason Statham Stole My Bike.” It also stars Hannah Waddingham and opens on Aug. 2, 2027. Not to mention his role as a drug dealer in Guy Ritchie’s action-thriller film “Viva La Madness”! There’s no release date for it quite yet.

Patrick Schwarzenegger has muscled himself into a top-notch movie career. His four completed films are: “Love of Your Life” with Margaret Qualley (for an October release); the rom-com “Beach Read” with Kristin Davis and Kevin Bacon (for a May 2027 release); the thriller “Bunker” with Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem; and the crime drama “The Bookie & the Bruiser” with Vince Vaughn and Theo James.

He may not have the kind of muscle that his father, Arnold, had, but he’s surely adept when it comes to pumping out ironclad movie roles!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER

by Bud Blake

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

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			1				3		4
1		2	3	9		6			8
4	6	7	9				5		3
9	5					8	2		7
				3				9	6

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

September 14, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13			14	
15						16			17	
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38	39	40				41		42		43
44					45				46	
47				48			49			50
52				53				54		
55				56				57		

ACROSS

1 Ashley and Wynonna
6 Consumer protection agcy.
9 Catchall abbr.
12 Track star Bolt
13 Tic-tac-toe win
14 "The Matrix" character
15 Refuse an offer
16 Seattle suburb that's home to Microsoft
18 Credit rating publisher
20 Skin soother
21 Corp. money exec
23 Overly
24 Part of LGBTQ
25 Hit on the noggin
27 Japanese fish dish
29 Tranquil
31 Sort of dive
35 Police ID
37 Employ
38 Hairnet
41 Moray, for one
43 Past
44 Plane-related
45 Country song?

DOWN

1 Roast beef au
2 "Suits" network
3 "Shark Tank" star — John
4 Flintstones' pet
5 Stuffed shirt
6 Gift giver's words
7 Low digits
8 Atlantic fish
9 — Holmes (Sherlock's sister)
10 Mortise partner
11 Encryptions
17 "Butterfly" singer Carey
19 Medicated
21 "60 Minutes" ailer
22 Nemesis
24 Fill in — blank
26 Explosive sound
28 Bed cover
30 Wee bit
32 Tiara stone
33 Work unit
34 Old Olds
36 Census info
38 "Sexy" Beatles girl
39 "— say more?"
40 Director Welles
42 — apso (small dog)
45 Novelist Seton
46 Airline to Tel Aviv
48 Spanish gold
50 Born
51 Blunder

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Trivia Test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What is the name of Jon Snow's dire wolf in "Game of Thrones"?
2. HISTORY: Which Civil War general literally used "scorched earth" tactics in his march from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia?
3. MOVIES: Which 1960s movie has the tagline, "A man went looking for America, and he couldn't find it anywhere"?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which body of water includes islands known as the Seychelles?
5. CHEMISTRY: Which element's symbol is Sn?
6. LITERATURE: What is the length of a traditional sonnet?
7. GEOLOGY: What is a common name for calcium carbonate?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Which fast-food chain goes by the name Hungry Jack in Australia?
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president gave radio addresses that were described as "fireside chats"?
10. ASTRONOMY: What is the shape of the Milky Way?

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King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

9	6	4	7	3	5	1	8	2
1	2	1	7	8	9	4	3	5
3	8	9	1	2	6	7	9	4
8	5	9	4	6	3	2	7	1
4	2	3	9	7	1	8	6	5
1	7	6	5	8	2	9	4	3
2	3	7	6	5	8	4	1	9
5	9	1	4	3	7	6	2	8
6	4	8	6	1	2	9	5	3

Answers

1. Ghost; 2. General William T. Sherman; 3. "Easy Rider"; 4. Indian Ocean; 5. The (stannum); 6. 14 lines of poetry; 7. Limestone or chalk; 8. Burger King; 9. Franklin D. Roosevelt; 10. Spiral

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