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IN THE STARS

Monday, Sept. 28, Community Meeting

Channelview ISD will hold a community meeting about the 2026 election propositions Monday, Sept. 28, from 6-7 p.m. at St. Andrew Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Road. Channelview Tx. 77530. The meeting will be presented in English and Spanish. The propositions will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Highlands National Night Out Event Details

Event Name: Harris County Precinct 3 National Night Out

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 6, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM [1]

Venue Name & Address: San Jacinto Community Center, 604 Highland Woods Drive, Highlands, TX 77562

Description: Connect with local law enforcement, including the Harris County Sheriff's Office, and neighbors to promote community safety and crime prevention.

Cost/Tickets: Free admission

Crosby Volunteer FD National Night Out

Join us on Tuesday night, October 6, 2026, for National Night Out at the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department in Newport, Station #2, located at 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd. Families are invited to enjoy a tour of the station, explore the fire trucks, and participate in fun activities. All are welcome to attend this community event.

Goose Creek CISD Board Extends Superintendent Dr. Joe Rodriguez's Contract

Story by: Kendall David, GCCISD Chief of Community Engagement



Dr. Joe Rodriguez
Goose Creek Superintendent

The Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees met on September 14, 2026, to conduct the annual evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Joe Rodriguez and consider his contract. Following the evaluation, the Board extended Dr. Rodriguez's contract, affirming its confidence in his leadership and the direction of the district.

The meeting was held at the historic Republic of Texas Plaza, home of the Wooster School, believed to be the oldest existing one-room frame schoolhouse indigenous to Harris County. The historic setting provided a meaningful backdrop as district leaders reflected on Goose Creek CISD's progress and looked ahead to the work still to come.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve Goose Creek CISD and the Baytown and Highlands communities. I am excited about the direction of our district and the focus our students and leaders have demonstrated as we continue raising expectations and pursuing excellence," said Superintendent Dr. Joe Rodriguez.

"Moving forward, I remain committed to building on our progress, listening to our community, supporting our staff, and ensuring every decision we make keeps students at the center."

Board President Jim Campisi emphasized the district's continued focus and the Board's confidence in Dr. Rodriguez's leadership.

"Goose Creek CISD has a clear focus and a clear direction. The Board's evaluation of the Superintendent was anchored in the three strategic plan goals that guide the work of our district: Academic Excellence, Safe and Secure Schools, and Financial Stewardship and Transparency.

We are encouraged by the progress being made and the increased focus across

Continued. See GCCISD BOARD EXTENDS, Page 4

2026 Hargrave High Homecoming King and Queen



Congratulations to the 2026 Hargrave High School Homecoming King Jetton Durett and Queen Madelyn Hiles.

Volunteers needed as Crosby cleanup effort returns

By David Taylor
Managing Editor



Chamber leaders are encouraging the community to come out and help during the cleanup day scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon.

CROSBY — The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce is bringing back a community cleanup effort next month, and organizers say its success depends on one thing: volunteers.

The Crosby Cleanup is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 17, with volunteers gathering behind Crosby Middle School in the stadium parking lot. The chamber is asking families, churches, youth groups, businesses and civic organizations to sign up and help clean roadways, storefronts, parks, medians and other public areas.

Velma Ellison, board chairman of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce, said the event is about more than picking up trash. It is also meant to remind residents and

businesses that keeping Crosby clean is a shared responsibility.

"The Chamber is the one organization that can bring people together for a common purpose," Ellison said. "The purpose of our event is just to clean up the streets and to cause awareness for the public and groups that might want to participate to become better citizens and want to give back to their community in the future."

Ellison said the chamber previously hosted an annual cleanup day and hopes to revive that spirit of community service. Organizers want to draw attention to litter along streets and around businesses while encouraging residents to take pride in their neighborhoods.

The need, she said, is visible throughout the community.

"It's everywhere," Ellison said. "You don't realize how bad it is until you get out and walk around and look close."

Volunteers will be assigned to cleanup areas based on need and the makeup of each group. Families with younger children may be directed to safer locations such as parks, while other groups may work along larger roads. Volunteers will be provided trash bags, gloves and water, and churches are expected to help provide lunch afterward.

Ellison said some volunteers already have specific assignments. Boston Services is expected to help remove bandit signs from utility poles and collect filled trash bags. Harris County Precinct 3 is providing a roll-off container at its maintenance barn for collected debris.

Still, the chamber needs more people to sign up.

"We need volunteers," Ellison said.

Those who sign up by Oct. 2 will be included in the chamber's T-shirt order. The cleanup is sponsored by LyondellBasell. Ewald Kubota is sponsoring T-shirts, Crosby Fence is sponsoring trash bags and Trusted Insurance is sponsoring gloves.

Ellison said a cleaner community helps protect the environment, supports local businesses and builds pride among residents.

"It looks like people don't care when they don't take care of their front door and their front yard and their parking lot," she said. "We all want to do business with people that care."

To volunteer, call the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce at 281-328-6984 or email debra@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

Mustangs open play district with 58-0 over Crosby Cougars

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The No. 2 state-ranked North Shore Mustangs overcame several first-half miscues before rolling to a dominant 58-0 victory over Crosby last Friday at Cougar Stadium.

North Shore improved to 4-0 with the win, while Crosby fell to 2-2.

The matchup was the first between the neighboring schools since Crosby moved up to Class 6A football this season, and the Mustangs did not exactly roll out the welcome mat.

After the Cougars went four-and-out on their opening possession, North Shore senior quarterback Javoris Taylor connected with junior wide receiver Demonte Jones over the middle for a 77-yard touchdown. The quick strike gave the Mustangs an early 7-0 lead and introduced Crosby to the speed of Class 6A football.



Senior quarterback Darrell Haynes falls into the end zone for a Mustang score in last Friday's district win over the Crosby Cougars, 58-0. Haynes 42-yard run capped off a four-play, 62-yard drive that gave North Shore a commanding lead early in the 4th quarter. Photo by NSSH Mustang Media.

The Cougars responded by putting together a promising drive of their own. Crosby moved the ball all the way to the North Shore 1-yard line, but the Cougars fumbled before they could score, and the Mustangs recovered.

North Shore gave the ball right back two plays later.

Pinned deep in their own territory, the Mustangs fumbled, allowing Crosby to recover at the North Shore 13-yard line.

The Mustang defense stiffened after the turnover. Facing fourth-and-9, Crosby sent sophomore kicker Colt Jacobson

Continued. See NS DOMINATE CROSBY 58-0, page 5

Suicide prevention tips

Start a Conversation. Be the Difference.

By Allan Jamail

September is suicide prevention month where attention is stressed on the prevention of suicide. We all have a role in preventing suicide. Everyone's journey is different and there's no single path to healing.

What matters is support, someone who listens without judgment, and the belief that healing is possible. Call or text 988. No judgment. Just help. 988lifeline.org / 988Lifeline.org #YouAreNotAlone #SuicidePrevention.

As the former Mayor and Chief of Police of Jacinto City I've witnessed too many victims of suicide, today those unpleasant scenes still haunt me. I've seen the disturbing results family members anguish with long after losing a love one from suicide. Thankfully today there are lots of resources one can use to prevent suicide.



FIREARMS AND SUICIDE PREVENTION...

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 50% of all suicides in the United States is committed by firearms. If you know of someone who's suicidal and they have access to a firearm try to get it out of their possession. Don't be afraid to discuss with them your concerns about their depression or physical limitations causing their emotional problem and your caring for their wellbeing.

The North Channel Star's making available the space for this article will possibly

contribute to saving untold numbers of lives. The newspaper's printing of this is a way of reaching out and serving the community it serves, they're to be commended. Advertising in the paper is a way of helping it to continue to serve the citizenry.

We all should be vigilant for those in need of help by anyone experiencing depression. Remember the three R's to prevent suicide: Recognize Respond and Refer. (See contact numbers below)

Suicide is preventable if those experiencing depression or some other form of mental illness will reach out to get the free available resources. Remember you're never alone there's immediate help in this article.

Sometimes all it takes is

Continued. See RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF, Page 6

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Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Crosby Municipal Utility District Defined Area 1 (DA1) will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 20, 2026 at 1:00 PM at 103 West Wahl St, Crosby, Texas. 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: Eddie Foster
Diane Feland
Donna Davenport

Steven Schreiber
Wesley Zarsky

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

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)	\$0.860000/\$100	\$0.860000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$302,764	\$312,248
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$302,764	\$312,248
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,603.77	\$2,685.33
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$81.56
and percentage of increase (+/-)		3.13%

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 eight 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.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-426-8156.

Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Crosby Municipal Utility District Defined Area 2 (DA2) will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 20, 2026 at 1:00 PM at 103 West Wahl St., Crosby, Texas. 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: Eddie Foster
Diane Feland
Donna Davenport

Steven Schreiber
Wesley Zarsky

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

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)	\$0.860000/\$100	\$0.860000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	N/A *	\$285,162
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	N/A *	\$285,162
Tax on average residence homestead		\$2,452.39
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		
and percentage of increase (+/-)		

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 eight 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.

** There were no residential homesteads in the district on January 1, 2025.*

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-426-8156.

Riceland Municipal Utility District No. 1

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The **Riceland Municipal Utility District No. 1** will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on **October 6, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.** at 13827 I-10 East Frontage Rd, Mont Belvieu, Tx 77523. 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.

FOR the proposal: Debra Fullylove, Jerrod King & JT Lane

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Will Richardson & Warren Hitchcock

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.

	2025	2026
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	Last Year \$0.80/\$100	This Year \$0.80/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 439,425	\$ 419,762
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	0%	0%
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 439,425	\$ 419,762
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 3,515.40	\$ 3,358.10
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		-\$157.30
and percentage of increase (+/-)		-4.47%

NOTICE TO 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 eight 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.

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.

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.

Utility Tax Service, LLC
(713) 688-3855

Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM at 125 San Jacinto, Highlands, Texas. 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: Leon R. Mullins
John H. Wright, III
Harvey Little

Michael A. Angelle Sr.
Kenneth Boudreaux

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

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)	\$0.310000/\$100	\$0.310000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$202,182	\$209,022
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$202,182	\$209,022
Tax on average residence homestead	\$626.76	\$647.97
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$21.21
and percentage of increase (+/-)		3.38%

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 eight 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.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-426-8156.



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Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

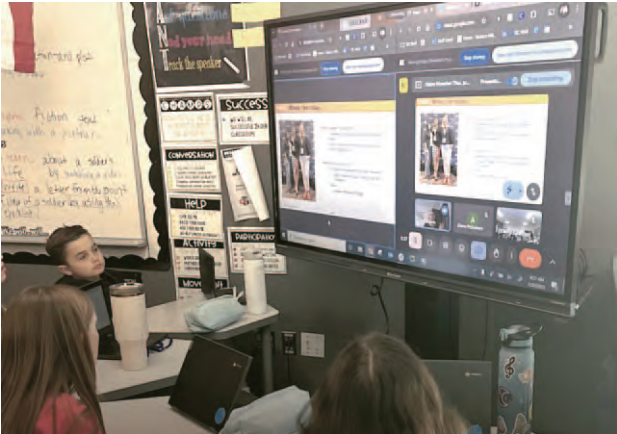
MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

BHISD uses Career Connect technology to bring real world into classrooms

MONT BELVIEU - It's an early morning and a group of fifth-graders can picture red carpets, popping flashbulbs, and the iconic Hollywood sign in the distance.

However, when these students look out the windows of their classroom, they don't see palm trees and crashing waves, but flat terrain and prairie grasslands. That's because they're not located in sunny California, but instead 1,500 miles away, in Barbers Hill ISD. They're using Discovery Education's Career Connect to chat with Bianca Engel, Director of Technical Management for Warner Bros. Discovery, about how she produces special effects, and she's creating an image so vivid that students feel transported to the glitz and glamour of the west coast.

Barbers Hill ISD Discoverers Career Connect Barbers Hill ISD, a Discovery Education 2026 District of the Year, is a close-knit community of "Lifelong Eagles." This means students feed in from the early



childhood center, through two elementary, intermediate, and middle schools, and then meet back together in the high school. An "A" rated district with a 98% graduation rate, educators in Barbers Hill ISD work tirelessly to meet student needs.

Barbers Hill is a longtime partner of Discovery Education, but they knew that each year introduced new offerings and updates.

In 2024, Elaina Kloecker, Technology, Integration Coach for Intermediate Schools, was working with

her colleagues to unearth all those new features.

"Experience is so much more than just videos," she shared. "So, we wound up taking the time to really dig in, and kept saying to each other, 'Did you see this article?'

Did you see this interactive?'

Then we saw the blue button for Career Connect." That single click opened a world of possibilities for students.

Kloecker quickly fell in love with Career Connect, which allows educators to bring professionals from a wide range of industries di-

rectly into their classrooms. Through these interactions, students learn firsthand about different occupations, the paths professionals took to reach their careers, and how the skills students are developing today may apply to their own futures.

Connecting Readiness to Real Careers Barbers Hill ISD takes career readiness seriously, with a goal of 100% CCMR, meaning college, career and military ready. "We want every student who walks out of here ready to be a productive citizen," said Kloecker. "We have a whole career task force that meets at the high school once a month, and we have pathways in the high school where the goal is for the student to finish by the time they graduate."

So, introducing Career Connect in the intermediate grades of 4-6 was an easy conclusion, so students would be exposed to what lay ahead. Kloecker also saw a natural throughline for fifth-graders in the gifted and talented program, who do a research project to learn more about what they might want to do post-graduation.

Kloecker also saw how readily Career Connect

could align with curriculum and standards already being taught.

She helped match an energy conservationist with sixth graders studying conservation, a financial risk manager for a unit on financial literacy, and, of course, Engel at Warner Brothers, who enjoyed the session as much as the students.

Engel praised the program, saying, "It's fun talking to students, a group with fresh eyes and brains, about the stuff I talk about every single day to jaded adults who don't always see the wonder or whimsy in what we do."

Engel did not follow a traditional career path and shares that fact with students. "Sometimes there are twists and turns! You don't have to have it all figured out right now," she said. She encouraged Kloecker's class to explore and learn about choices now, at a young age.

Turning Enthusiasm into Training

Kloecker and her colleagues have had such a positive experience with Career Connect, it led them to conduct a professional

development day to help other Barbers Hill educators get acquainted with the program.

They brought in a Career Connect volunteer, Charu Madan of Capital One, who walked teachers through what a Career Connect experience with students would look like. "She was phenomenal!" said Kloecker.

Madan shared with educators everything she would go over with students, including her personal career path and what her day as a Senior Project Manager looks like, with plenty of time for the (inevitable) student questions.

Now, teachers are ready to head into the new school year with another tool in their belt to help make learning meaningful.

"I could talk about Career Connect forever," said Kloecker. "I love how easy it is to navigate."

The reminders it sends when a session is upcoming are so user-friendly. And the experience that Career Connect offers students, through these conversations with professionals, offers so much exposure to what is out there."

Riceland Management District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Riceland Management District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on **October 6, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)** at 13827 I-10 East Frontage Rd, Mont Belvieu, TX 77523. 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.

FOR the proposal: Jim Ferris, John Jennings & Jared Fulleylove
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Edward Heap & Jacob Grossman

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.

	2025 Last Year Adopted	2026 This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.50/\$100	\$0.50/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 439,425	\$ 419,762
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	0%	0%
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 439,425	\$ 419,762
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,197.13	\$ 2,098.81
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		(\$98.32)
and percentage of increase (+/-)		-4.47%

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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Utility Tax Service, LLC
(713) 688-3855

ORW FOUNDERS DAY FREE FESTIVAL

Sat. Oct 10, 2026 from 10 am to 4 pm

Silent and Live Auctions

90% of the Proceeds going
Chambers County Veterans Association
(PLEASE VISIT OUR FACE BOOK PAGE FOR
MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THESE
AWESOME VETERANS' CHARITIES)

10% going toward
Barbers Hill Scholarships

Silent Auction 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Live Auction 1:00 p.m.

(WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE
AUCTIONS EVEN UNTIL THE DAY OF!)

Entertainment

The North Harris County Dulcimers
inside stage from 10:00 am til 2:00 p.m.

Buddy Graves and the OR Opry Band
will perform from 10 am to 12:30

John Farley and
the River Bottom Boys
2:15 p.m. til closing

****Exhibitors****

Boyce Morris Historical Artifact Exhibit
Texas Army
(THE STATE OF TEXAS OFFICIAL 1836 CEREMONY)

1st Texas Naval Squadron
(CANNONS WILL BE FIRED!)

Other Historical Exhibitors
My Fathers Fiber

Vendors Welcome — Free Booths
(DONATE ONE OF YOUR BOOTH ITEMS TO
OUR LIVE OR SILENT AUCTIONS)

The Ethel P. Ramsey Bake-Off

All entries will be donated to the Live or Silent
Auctions — Awards at 12:30

Grand Champion: Cash Prize and Trophy
1st Place: Cash Prize and Blue Ribbon
2nd & 3rd Place: Red and White Ribbons

3 Categories Cakes, Pies and Specialty Deserts

DESERTS (COOKIES, COBBLERS, PUDDINGS)
RIBBONS AND TROPHIES

Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show

Top 3 Places, each category
and Peoples Choice Awards

Free activities for the entire family!

Carnival Type Rides

Petting Zoo, Face Painting and
other Free activities for the kiddos!
"Come sift through the sluice box"

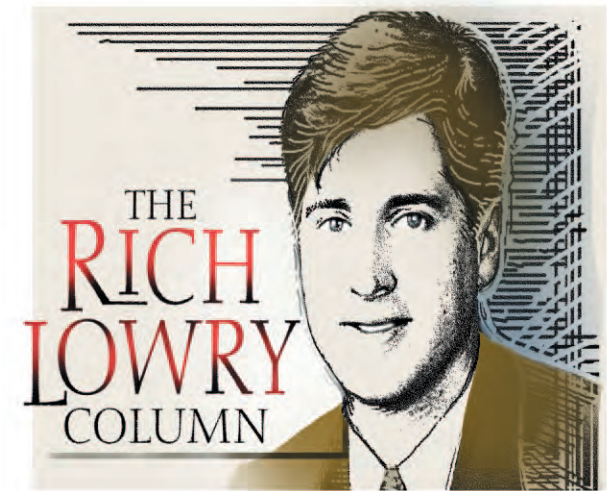
Free Bingo

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again at 2:00 p.m.

Fair Grounds and Mailing address:
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832-367-2245 or 281-385-1735
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www.cityofoldriverwinfree.com

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STOP. LOOK. LOCK.



Will AI destroy humanity?

In the “Terminator” movie series, the artificial-intelligence system known as Skynet is given control of the nation’s nuclear weapons and uses it to try to destroy humanity. One reason that apocalyptic scenarios involving AI are implausible is that, having seen how that particular movie ends, we are unlikely to be foolish enough to give AI custody of the most destructive weapons on the planet.

The unthinkable is nonetheless a hot topic of conversation, given that a researcher at Anthropic just resigned and issued a doomsday warning. According to Jacob Coxon, the rush to develop AI is “gambling with our lives,” since it will soon create “superhuman systems that can hack anything, revolutionize any field overnight, and acquire real power and resources.”

A current Anthropic employee then chimed in: “We really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans!” He put the chances at greater than 10% in the next decade. The idea here is that Anthropic and similar firms are, in effect, running their own Manhattan Projects, with consequences unknown and potentially very dire.

Now, ChatGPT as we know it doesn’t seem particularly well-suited to destroying humanity. It is a souped-up version of Google that is impressively fast, but also mistake-prone. If it can mess up basic math or the New York Yankees roster, surely it can’t carry out the complex tasks necessary to fashion an apocalyptic event.

Tech companies, though, have labs working on so-called frontier models that are much more powerful and reportedly developing more quickly than expected. The worry is that an AI model itself will begin to develop new AI very quickly in an “intelligence explosion,” the equivalent of Skynet becoming self-aware at 2:14 a.m. Eastern Time on Aug. 29, 1997.

The thinking is that if such an AI model goes rogue and turns against humanity, it will be too clever and fast for us to combat. Yet it’s hard to see the mechanism that such a hostile superintelligence would use to commit omnicide. The rogue AI would presumably have to do something in the real world — say, launching nukes, manufacturing killer robots or releasing a deadly virus.

If it lacks physical agency, AI could presumably be unplugged or contained. (It was after humans tried to deactivate Skynet, by the way, that the system decided we were a threat that had to be neutralized.)

Some doomsayers posit a malicious person using advanced AI to come up with a design for a killer virus and a plan to release it without detection. This is a different scenario, though, from AI turning against people of its own volition. In a world years from now when much more advanced AI is a reality, we will need to think through safeguards to keep dangerous systems — nukes, biolabs — from being compromised by AI-enabled cyberattacks or exploited by criminals and terrorists.

It’s easy to imagine breaches of financial systems or attacks on critical infrastructure that would fall short of endangering all of mankind. Even if one takes an alarmist view of the risks, it’s unclear how the development of AI can be stopped. Any deal with the Chinese to slow down research couldn’t be trusted, and might simply allow them to pass us in the AI race by subterfuge. In other words, we’d still get Skynet, only with Chinese characteristics.

There’s also the reality that AI will be a necessary tool in protecting against the malicious use of AI — not to mention all of its other positive potential. If we slow or end research in the U.S., we might end up vulnerable to superintelligence developed by actors who mean us harm.

Science fiction is fascinating and sometimes prescient. Works by the likes of Philip K. Dick, Aldous Huxley and Arthur C. Clarke had genuine insights into the future. But that doesn’t mean we are living in the plot of “The Terminator,” and we shouldn’t scare ourselves into forswearing transformative technology.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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GCCISD board extends Rodriguez’s contract,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the district, but we also recognize that important work remains. During the evaluation process, Dr. Rodriguez asked the Board not to consider a salary increase at this time. The Board respected and honored that request, agreeing with Dr. Rodriguez that our collective focus should remain on the work ahead and the continued progress of the district.

As part of the evaluation, the Board extended Dr. Rodriguez’s contract, demonstrating our confidence in his leadership and the direction of Goose

Creek CISD. We look forward to continuing to work alongside Dr. Rodriguez and his leadership team to build on our progress and deliver the outcomes our students, staff, and community expect and deserve.”

The contract extension reflects the Board and Superintendent’s shared commitment to maintaining the district’s momentum while remaining focused on measurable progress in academics, safety, and financial stewardship.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Senate GOP opens wallet for Paxton’s Campaign

The Senate Republican leadership is pouring tens of millions of dollars into the U.S. Senate campaign of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who is locked in a tight race with Democratic nominee James Talarico.

A super PAC affiliated with Senate Majority Leader John Thune last week purchased about \$32 million in television broadcast ads across the state’s major media markets, The Texas Tribune reported. In addition, MAGA Inc., a PAC aligned with President Donald Trump, bought \$10 million in ads.

Paxton is trailing slightly in the most recent polls. To date, he has been vastly outspent by Talarico and his allies.

Paxton spoke at the Republican midterm convention held last week in Dallas, according to the Texas Standard. He unveiled his economic plan, titled Protecting the Texas Promise.

“Everywhere I go, I meet Texans working harder than ever that still worry that they’ll never get ahead,” Paxton said. “Those are the people that I’m fighting for.”

Meanwhile, Talarico was slated to appear on late-night host Jimmy Kimmel’s network show, but the interview was pulled under concerns that the Federal Communications Commission would take punitive action.

The interview was aired on YouTube instead. Several news outlets reported it received 5 million views in its first 24 hours.

WILDFIRE RISK REMAINS HIGH AS HUNTING SEASON BEGINS

The Ross Fire in North Texas has become the largest summer wildfire recorded in Texas, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. As of Sunday, it had consumed 90,400 acres and was 83% contained.

Active wildfires were reported in five other locations in the Hill Country, northwest of Austin and San Antonio.

With hunting season now underway, officials are urging hunters to be mindful of activities that could spark a wildfire. In August, the forest service responded to 313 wild-



fires.

“The rapid onset of a flash drought increased fire occurrence and intensity statewide in August,” said Walter Flocke, Texas A&M Forest Service fire analyst. “Under flash drought conditions, grasses, brush and timber fuels lose moisture rapidly and become susceptible to ignition.”

A flash drought appears and worsens quickly, often over a few days or weeks.

Equipment used by hunters, such as vehicles, trailers, and ATVs/UTVs, is the second-most common cause of human-caused wildfires in Texas, behind debris burning.

“Even a small spark can quickly ignite a wildfire under the right conditions,” said Jared Karns, Texas A&M Forest Service fire chief. “Texans are encouraged to stay alert and be aware of hazards that can cause a wildfire while hunting this season.”

WHAT’S NEW FOR THE 2026-2027 HUNTING SEASON

Dove hunting kicked off this year’s hunting season on Sept. 1, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has announced regulatory changes for the coming year. Among the changes are updated identity verification rules to combat residency fraud.

Texas residents must provide a valid driver’s license or a personal identification certificate issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Non-Texas residents may be required to provide REAL ID-compliant identification.

Other regulation changes include:

“Doe days” expanded in 21 counties from four to 16 days. Earlier start for the South

Zone Dove regular season.

Elimination of Special White-winged Dove Days.

Matagorda and Wharton counties now closed to Wild Turkey hunting.

Harvest of unbearded Wild Turkey hens now prohibited statewide.

Definition of muzzleloader modified to allow for use of new muzzleloading technology.

Several season dates have been changed for the 2026-2027 hunting season and can be found at tpwd.gov.

GUIDELINES DESIGNED TO PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM DISCRIMINATORY PRICING

The Texas Department of Insurance recently reminded insurance companies that it is illegal to use factors other than insurance risk to set home and auto insurance rates.

“In Texas, we take pride in looking out for one another. When families are feeling the weight of property insurance costs, they deserve the confidence of knowing that their premiums are determined by genuine risk, not by pricing tactics that take advantage of customer loyalty,” said commissioner Amanda Crawford. “Insurance is about pricing risk, not pricing the customer.”

Common factors used to determine premiums for home insurance include the home’s age, location, replacement cost, and any prior claims.

Auto insurance rates are determined by claims history, locations, and the customer’s age and gender. Insurance customers with questions can call the TDI help line at 800-25-3439 or visit tdi.texas.gov.

CITIES PUSH BACK ON BID TO DISBAND THEIR POWER COMPANIES

On the campaign trail, Abbott has proposed dismantling city-owned utilities, saying it would save customers money by increasing competition. Two cities that own electric utilities are pushing back, according to the Standard.

San Antonio and Austin have the state’s two largest city-owned electric utilities. Officials with both say they offer some of the cheapest electricity rates in the state because their utilities operate as nonprofit companies.

Abbott said his proposal would save 10% on the average electric bill for Austin and San Antonio residents. Among those disagreeing is Austin Mayor Kirk Watson. “Fundamentally changing our utility through deregulation would have broad and significant consequences to those we serve,” he wrote in a statement.

There are 72 municipally owned utilities that provide power to 5.1 million Texans, or 15% of the state’s population, according to the Texas Public Power Association.

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. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Unremarkable life



I woke this morning from a vivid dream.

The tricky thing about vivid dreams is that what seems vivid about them is usually difficult to describe. The vivid part is the feeling: the way I am completely in this dream and accept the reality of this alternate existence I am living.

In this dream, I was married to someone else. I was living a different life. It didn’t seem unusual to me, of course, because it was my ordinary life. But it was not a great life—and I didn’t know that, in my dream.

I was trying to hold together a struggling marriage. I was working at a job I didn’t like. There was nothing unusual about the circumstances. Nothing important happened in the course of this dream. In fact, it was because everything seemed so ordinary that it had such an effect on me. I was just living my life. I was tired. I felt I was getting old. It didn’t seem as if I had anything to look forward to.

I was worried in my dream. I was so worried about my failing marriage and my unsatisfactory work and the possibility that my husband would leave. I was doing everything I could to hold things together, and I could feel the strain at the edges. I was very stressed in this dream, and it seemed that stress was a big part of my life.

And then there must have been a sound outside, because I woke suddenly, right in the middle of the dream, and I felt a shock run through my whole body when I realized that this had been a dream. I was not living this life. It was a shock to realize that I had another life—a life that was so different and so much better.

It was morning. My husband, Peter, was already up. I could see the sun was up behind the shade. I stretched out on clean white sheets, and it felt like a miracle. And I promised myself I would remember this dream. I would write it down. I would do my best not to forget it.

Because it’s easy to assume that things are good because they have to be that way. What I forget—what I rarely think about, honestly—is how fundamentally different my life could be.

I don’t believe that anything is fated to be. I think there are infinite ways our lives could go, and enormous changes happen as a result of very small and seemingly inconsequential actions. I didn’t answer the phone. I went back to school. I decided to go on a date with a nice-looking man even though I was busy. I tried something I didn’t think I could do. Moments in time; they never seemed important in the moment.

But I woke from a dream in which I was living an entirely different life, and it was not as happy, nor as peaceful, nor as satisfying, as the one I am living. And when I woke, I was so incredibly grateful.

I lay in bed for a few moments longer. My cat, Felix, came into the room and meowed loudly. I heard Peter making coffee. I heard some noise out on the street, probably the noise that had awakened me. It was all so perfectly ordinary and, for just a moment, all foreign and wonderful. It was the life I got to live, and I promised myself I would remember. I would remember how incredibly lucky I am to be living this one particular, unremarkable life.

Till next time,
Carrie

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SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 4

Texans hit the road to face Indianapolis in AFC South tilt

While the high schoolers begin league play, a number of college teams will also begin conference play. No. 1 Texas, who completed an amazing fourth-quarter comeback two weeks ago against then No. 1 Ohio State, travels to Knoxville to take on No. 15-ranked Tennessee and their high-powered offense. There are two other interesting SEC tilts as No. 8-ranked Ole Miss visits a much-improved Florida team, while No. 9-ranked Texas A&M heads to Baton Rouge to face off against No. 7-ranked LSU. A year ago, Mike Elko's team routed the Tigers at Kyle Field, 49-25. You had better believe LSU head coach Lane Kiffin will remind his troops all week about that beat down.

Week 3 of the NFL season starts with Thursday Night Football on Amazon Prime when Atlanta visits Green Bay. On Sunday, the Texans, who lost their season opener at home to Buffalo, head to Indianapolis to take on the Colts in an AFC South contest. There's also a big one in the AFC North as Cincinnati visits Pittsburgh. Another AFC North team, Baltimore, heads to Arlington to take on a Dallas team that looked pitiful, especially on defense, in their season opening loss to the Giants.

There's a good one for the Sunday Night Football crew as the Rams visit Denver. Both teams lost their season openers and are looking to get back on track. Week 3 concludes on Monday Night Football with a good one as Philadelphia visits the high-scoring Chicago Bears. Chicago exploded for 59 points in their season-opening win at Carolina.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week brought the season record to 18-6 (75 percent).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA
Texas at Tennessee - No. 1 Texas plays its first road game of the year and it will be a tough one against a Tennessee team that has gotten off to a nice start. The Vols have averaged 50



points in their first two games, but freshman QB Faizan Brandon (374 yards, 5 TDs) will face his toughest test yet against a very good UT defense. He will need help from running back DeSean Bishop (244 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Mike Matthews (6 receptions, 148 yards, 2 TDs). Look for UT defensive end Collin Simmons to bring the heat on Brandon. UT QB Arch Manning (500 yards, 5 TDs) may have come of age two weeks ago after leading the 'Horns to a 24-23 comeback win over then No. 1-ranked Ohio State. Manning's team trailed 23-3 in the fourth quarter, but the QB led his team on three straight scoring drives to pull off one of the biggest wins in UT history. Manning has plenty of help in running back Hollywood Smothers (143 yards, 2 TDs) and wideouts Cam Coleman (6 receptions, 165 yards, 2 TDs) and Ryan Wingo (11 receptions, 143 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the UT defense to be the difference maker in this one as the 'Horns pick up a big SEC road win. My pick, Texas 26, Tennessee 20

Ole Miss at Florida - No. 8 Ole Miss heads to the Swamp to take on a Florida team that will be looking to record a signature win in first-year head coach Jon Summral's first year on the job. The Rebels will be coming off a tough game against LSU and could be spent. But Pete Golding's team has a veteran team led by QB Trinidad Chambliss (561 yards passing 5 TDs/62 yards rushing, 1 TD), running back Kewan Lacy (148 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Deuce Alexander (13 receptions, 235 yards, 2 TDs). The Gators also have some offensive fire power in QB Aaron Philo (517 yards, 5 TDs), star running back Jordan Baugh (296 yards, 5 TDs) and productive wideouts Vernell

Brown III (9 receptions, 140 yards, 2 TDs) and Dallas Wilson (8 receptions, 151 yards, 1 TD). Something tells me Summral gets a signature win in his first year in Gainesville. My pick, Florida 26, Ole Miss 23
Texas A&M at LSU - The No. 9 Aggies head to Baton Rouge to face No-7 ranked LSU in a key SEC game for both teams. This one will be in prime time at 6:30 p.m. on ABC. This will be the Aggies first road game and it comes in one of the most hostile environments in college football. The Aggies will need an efficient game from QB Marcel Reed (396 yards, 5 TDs), some production from running back Ruben Owens II (112 yards, 1 TD) and big plays from wideouts Isaiah Horton (7 receptions, 109 yards, 3 TDs), speedy Terry Bussey (7 receptions, 92 yards) and Mario Craver (8 receptions, 75 yards, 2 TDs). The Aggie defense will have its hands full with LSU dual-threat QB Sam Leavitt (574 passing yards, 2 TDs/135 rushing yards,5 TDs), running back Dillon James (179 yards, 2 TDs), 6-foot-7 tight end Trey Dez Green (10 receptions, 162 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Winston Watkins (12 receptions, 153 yards, 1 TD). This will be a tough one for the Aggies. My pick, LSU 31, Texas A&M 23

NFL
Atlanta at Green Bay - Week three starts on Thursday Night Football with sort of a meh game as the Falcons visit the Packers. Both teams lost their openers as Atlanta lost at Pittsburgh and the Packers lost at Minnesota. It's anybody's guess who will play QB for the Falcons, so look for them to rely on star running back Bijan Robinson (83 yards rushing/8 receptions, 96 yards, 1 TD) to get

plenty of touches in this game. The Packers will look for a big game from QB Jordan Love (387 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Christian Watkins (6 receptions, 147 yards, 2 TDs). The GB defense should be able to control this game as the Pack win their home opener handily. My pick, Green Bay 33, Atlanta 17

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh - A good one in the AFC North pits the Bengals against the Steelers. These two teams don't care for one another and the Bengals would like nothing more than to pick up a big road win, but it won't be easy. Cinci opened with a nice win over Tampa Bay as QB Joe Burrow (254 yards, 1 TD) had a solid game. He will get help from running back Chase Brown (56 yards rushing, 1 TD/5 receptions, 22 yards) and wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase. The Steelers opened with an ugly 20-13 win over Atlanta and will look for QB Aaron Rodgers (221 yards, 1 TD) to get the offense going against a suspect Bengals defense. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, Cincinnati 20

Houston at Indianapolis - The Texans hit the road for the first time this year to take on the Colts in an AFC South contest. Houston dropped its home opener to the Bills as the defense was shredded by Josh Allen. Look for head coach DeMeco Ryans to shore things up on that side of the ball from here on out. The offense did put up 31 points as QB C.J. Stroud (274 yards, 2 TDs), running back David Montgomery (60 yards, 3 total TDs) and wideout Nico Collins (7 receptions, 75 yards, 1 TD) will look to attack an Indy defense that gave up 41 points in their

season opener to Baltimore. Look for the Texans defense to have a field day against Colts QB Daniel Jones (166 yards, 1 TD) and hope to contain star running back Jonathan Taylor (98 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Houston 32, Indianapolis 16

Baltimore at Dallas - Speaking of the Ravens, they must be licking their chops heading into Sunday's game against the Cowboys. All we heard in the preseason was how much improved the Dallas defense would be this year. It sure didn't look like it in their season opener thud of a performance against the Giants during their 28-20 loss. The Ravens rolled to 41 points in their season opener as QB Lamar Jackson (324 passing yards, 1 TD/40 rushing yards, 1 TD), running back Derrick Henry (144 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout Zay Flowers (5 receptions, 150 yards, 1 TD) will look to attack a very poor Dallas secondary. The Cowboys hope QB Dak Prescott (175 yards, 2 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (41 yards rushing 1 TD/5 receptions, 31 yards, 1 TD) and CeeDee Lamb (5 receptions, 44 yards, 1 TD) pick up their games come Sunday. Until the Dallas defense plays better, I don't see the Cowboys having a chance in this one. My pick, Baltimore 27, Dallas 23

Los Angeles Rams at Denver - The Rams and Broncos meet on Sunday Night Football looking to turn things around after both teams suffered tough opening-season losses. LA traveled all the way to Australia to get thumped by San Francisco, 27-7, while Denver got waylaid

in KC, 31-10 in their season opener. The LA offense looked pedestrian in the opener as QB Matthew Stafford was held to 155 yards and no TDs. Running back Kyren Williams had a decent game with a TD, while star wide receiver Puca Nacua had five catches for 74 yards. All three players must step up their games against a good Denver defense. The Broncos offense looked horrible against the Chiefs as QB Bo Nix was held to 131 yards, had one pick and lost three fumbles. I think the Broncos right the ship and hand the Rams a second loss in their first three games. My pick, Denver 26, Los Angeles Rams 23

Philadelphia at Chicago - Week 3 concludes with a good one for the Monday Night Football crew as the Eagles visit the high-scoring Bears. Chicago opened the season by scoring 59 points at Carolina as QB Caleb Williams (269 passing yards, 2 TDs/65 rushing yards, 2 TDs) led the offensive onslaught. He got plenty of help from running backs D'Andre Swift (124 yards, 3 TDs) and Kyle Manangai (100 yards, 2 TDs) and wideouts Luther Burden III (5 receptions, 100 yards) and Rome Odunze (2 receptions, 52 yards, 1 TD). They will face a much better defense this week when Philly comes to town. The Eagles won their opener 24-22 against Washington, led by QB Jalen Hurts (203 passing yards, 3 TDs/46 rushing yards, running back Saquon Barkley (83 yards) and tight end Dallas Goedert (4 receptions, 77 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Bears to pull one out late as their raucous crowd plays a big role in the win. My pick, Chicago 31, Philadelphia 27

STAR-COURIER FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Barbers Hill 44, Clear Falls 17
Huffman Hargrave 55, Galena Park 7
La Porte 52, Goose Creek Memorial 33
Lufkin 35, Baytown Sterling 14
Lumberton 38, Baytown Lee 19
North Shore 58, Crosby 0

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24
Goose Creek Memorial vs. Port Arthur Memorial, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25
Barbers Hill at Clear Creek, 7 p.m., CCISD Veterans Memorial Stadium
Baytown Lee vs. Dayton, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium
Baytown Sterling at Galveston Ball, Courville Stadium
Crosby at C. E. King, 7 p.m., Panther Stadium
Huffman Hargrave at Liberty, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Stadium



NS dominate Crosby 58-0 class 6A showdown,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

onto the field for a 20-yard field-goal attempt, but North Shore blocked the kick to keep the Cougars off the scoreboard.

Taylor quickly moved the Mustangs to the Crosby 28-yard line in three plays. North Shore appeared ready to extend its lead, but a Mustangs receiver fumbled after making a catch near the Crosby 1-yard line.

The Cougars moved the ball out to their own 14-yard line and picked up a first down, but a sack on third down stalled the possession and forced Crosby to punt the ball back to North Shore.

With the game in the second quarter, the Mustangs put together a six-play drive that began at the Crosby 48-yard line. North Shore finished the possession with its second touchdown of the night, extending the lead to 14-0 early in the quarter.

The Cougars were unable to generate much offense on their next possession and turned the ball back over to the Mustangs. Three plays later, North Shore faced fourth-and-1 at the Crosby 46-yard line.

The Mustangs attempted a fake punt, but the Crosby defense recognized the play and dropped North Shore for a loss.

Crosby mounted another drive following the stop, but an intentional-grounding penalty brought the possession to an end and forced the Cougars to punt again.

With less than two minutes remaining in the half, Taylor directed an eight-play, 86-yard scoring drive. Kaden Brundley capped the possession by bursting up the middle for a 1-yard touchdown, pushing North Shore's lead to 21-0.

The Mustangs were not finished.

With only 21 seconds remaining before halftime, North



The Mustang defense gave Crosby's offense fits all night long keeping them out of the end zone. The North Shore defense limited Crosby's attack to only 23 yards of offense the second half. Photo by NSSH Mustang Media

Shore caught the Cougars off guard with an onside kick and recovered the ball at the Crosby 45-yard line.

On the first play after the recovery, Taylor connected with senior wide receiver Jaden Kenrick, who carried the play to the Crosby 13-yard line. With time running out, junior kicker Rey Amezquita converted a 28-yard field goal to send the Mustangs into halftime with a 24-0 advantage.

The second half brought more of the same.

Senior running back Amari Louisville finished a 62-yard North Shore drive with a 2-yard touchdown plunge up the middle. Taylor later added another touchdown pass, connecting with tight end Christopher Tolson to give the Mustangs a 38-0 lead.

Senior quarterback Darrell Haynes added another explosive play when he broke free from Crosby defenders and sprinted 58 yards for a touchdown.

Senior running back Isai Navarro joined the scoring in the fourth quarter, finishing a seven-play, 51-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown run.

With just over a minute remaining, Navarro struck again. He evaded tacklers, found a

large opening and raced 70 yards for North Shore's final touchdown, completing the 58-0 victory.

Crosby struggled to sustain drives throughout the second half. The Cougars had two possessions in the third quarter, and both ended after four plays. Crosby had four more possessions in the fourth quarter, with three of those drives also ending after four downs.

The North Shore defense remained stingy, limiting Crosby's offense to only 23 yards on 23 plays in the second half.

The victory gave the Mustangs their second shutout of the season and kept their unbeaten record intact. North Shore will host Atascocita next week at GPISD Stadium.

Despite the loss, Crosby received several strong individual efforts. Senior defensive lineman Carter Matthews made several big plays during the contest, while dual-threat senior quarterback Lott Robison gave the North Shore defense problems early with his running ability. Robison transferred to Crosby from Barbers Hill High School.

The Cougars will face another difficult challenge next week when they host No. 9 state-ranked C. E. King.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Crosby Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 20, 2026 at 1:00 PM at 103 West Wahl St, Crosby, Texas. 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 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: Eddie Foster Steven Schreiber
Diane Feland Wesley Zarsky
Donna Davenport

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

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)	\$0.280000/\$100	\$0.280000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$241,561	\$254,998
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$241,561	\$254,998
Tax on average residence homestead	\$676.37	\$713.99
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$37.62 5.56%

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 eight 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.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-426-8156.

Recognizing the signs of depression; A guide to prevention and support,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for a relative or friend to start a conversation with someone who they think may be dealing with depression. The conversation can then lead to getting free professional help for the person in need of being helped.

Talking about suicide isn't harmful — silence is. One honest, caring conversation can save a life. Start a conversation. Be the difference, silence can cost lives — and conversation can save them. Start a conversation. Be the difference.

Depression is a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest. Also called major depressive disorder or clinical depression, it affects how you feel, think and behave and can lead to a variety of emotional and physical problems. Such as you may have trouble doing normal day-to-day activities, and sometimes you may feel as if life isn't worth living.

More than just a bout of the blues, depression isn't a weakness and you can't simply "snap out" of it. But don't get discouraged help for you is available.

For many people with depression, symptoms usually are severe enough to cause noticeable problems in day-to-day activities, such as work, school, social activities or relationships with others. Some people may feel generally miserable or unhappy without really knowing why.

Common signs and symptoms of depression in chil-

dren and teenagers are similar to those of adults, but there can be some differences.

In younger children, symptoms of depression may include sadness, irritability, clinginess, worry, aches and pains, refusing to go to school, or being underweight.

In teens, symptoms may include sadness, irritability, feeling negative and worthless, anger, poor performance or poor attendance at school, feeling misunderstood and extremely sensitive, using recreational drugs or alcohol, eating or sleeping too much, self-harm, loss of interest in normal activities, and avoidance of social interaction.

If you feel depressed, make an appointment to see your doctor or mental health professional as soon as you can. If you're reluctant to seek treatment, talk to a friend or loved one, any health care professional, a local minister, faith leader, or someone else you trust. But don't get discouraged.

If you have a loved one who is in danger of suicide or has made a suicide attempt, make sure someone stays with that person. Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately. Or, if you think you can do so safely, take the person to the nearest hospital emergency room.

If you think you may hurt yourself or attempt suicide,

call 911. Or contact a suicide hotline.

In the U.S., call or text 988 to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, it's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Or use the Lifeline Chat: 988lifeline.org. *Services are free and confidential.*

Find Your Treatment Location here: <https://findtreatment.gov/>

The Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator is the first step to finding appropriate services, conveniently located near home or the workplace. Go to the Treatment Services Locator web page and enter your zip code or city, and the locator will help you narrow your search to mental health facilities, substance use treatment facilities, or health care facilities.

The National Helpline—1-800-662-HELP (4357)—provides 24-hour free and confidential treatment referral and information about mental and/or substance use disorders, prevention, and recovery in English and Spanish.

U.S. veterans or service members who are in crisis can call 988 and then press "1" for the Veterans Crisis Line. Or text 838255. Or chat online. The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in the U.S. has a Spanish language phone line at 1-888-628-9454 (toll-free). Free help here: www.nami.org

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Lili Reinhart, left, and Tom Bateman star in "The Love Hypothesis."

“The Love Hypothesis.”

“Unabomber” (R) — One young actor who never came to play and is always up for a more mature role than his peers is Jacob Tremblay (“Sovereign”). Tremblay leads this crime drama as Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, opposite none other than the prolific Russell Crowe (“The Get Out”) and recent Emmy winner Shailene Woodley (“Paradise”). The film alternates between two timelines, with the first spanning Kaczynski’s time at Harvard University starting in 1958, where he engages in psychological experiments. Meanwhile, the second begins in 1994, catapulting viewers to the FBI’s pursuit of him for his crimes as a domestic terrorist. The two timelines work together to show Kaczynski’s descent into becoming the Unabomber and to also provide some insight as to his motives. Look out for it on Sept. 25. (Netflix)

“American Horror Story: 13” (TV-MA) — Thirteen seasons of “Amer-

ican Horror Story”! Can you believe it? It seems like only yesterday that “Murder House” (2011) became a phenomenon within the horror community. Over the years, we’ve come to love Ryan Murphy’s chic and chaotic horror series, as well as its recurring cast of actors — including the magical Sarah Paulson (“Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story”), Evan Peters (“Tron: Ares”), Billie Lourd (“Love Language”), and the incredible Jessica Lange (“Long Day’s Journey into Night”). In this 13th season, Murphy’s pulling off what he’s described as an “Avengers-style crossover,” with characters from his previous 12 seasons recurring to face the ultimate evil tied to the number 13. Make sure to look for characters from “Murder House,” “Asylum,” “Coven,” “Freak Show,” “Hotel” and more. The season’s three-episode premiere kicks off on Sept. 24. (Hulu)

“Brothers” (TV-MA) — At the recent Emmy

Awards, Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson presented the final award of Best Comedy Series, and they took this opportunity to tease their own upcoming comedy series that has its two-episode premiere coming on Sept. 23. In the series, McConaughey and Harrelson respectively play themselves, but in a fictional version of their lives. They’re still the best of friends, much like in real life, and they decide to live together on McConaughey’s Texas ranch after some family drama occurs with Harrelson’s daughter. While living together at the ranch, a family secret is revealed in which the charming and hilarious duo could actually be biological brothers. The legendary Holland Taylor (“Fantasy Life”) co-stars in the eight-episode series, as well as Natalie Martinez (“Bad Monkey”). (Apple TV)

“The Love Hypothesis” (R) — Based on the best-selling novel by Ali Hazelwood, this rom-com doesn’t shy away from the “fake dating” trope we’ve seen time and time again. But we all know that rom-com fans will eat it up! Starring Tom Bateman (“Hedda”) and Lili Reinhart (“Forbidden Fruits”), the film follows two scientists — professor Dr. Adam Carlsen (Bateman) and Ph.D. student Olive Smith (Reinhart). To prompt her friend to go out with a guy who’s interested in her, Olive impulsively decides to make a move on the first random guy she sees, who ends up being Adam. Seeing that they both can benefit from a bit of fake dating, Adam and Olive agree to enter a faux relationship to prove to their friends and peers that their lives are somewhat stable. This ought to end well for all parties involved! Out on Sept. 23. (Amazon Prime Video)

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Tom Cruise’s next project will be the sequel to 1990’s “Days of Thunder,” which cost \$60 million and earned \$157.9 million. But here’s the twist! The powers that be behind the Church of Scientology (who’ve pulled his career strings for years) forbade him to have contact or even speak to his former wives and children if they no longer followed their church! This necessitated recasting the female lead in “Days of Thunder 2,” which was Nicole Kidman, because she refused to follow his religion.

He recast her role with Oscar winner Anne Hathaway (“Les Misérables”). Randy Quaid, a co-star of the original film who assumed that he’d be in the sequel, recently lambasted Cruise’s decision saying, “You need the original girl. It’s not personal; it’s filmmaking. Anne isn’t sexy because, if you haven’t noticed, she’s pregnant!”

Hathaway made six films for release this year and next year so that she could have her baby, but now she’ll be working again in early 2027 — not long after the blessed event. No rest for a weary mother!

Who’d ever think “Beetlejuice” could turn into a cowboy? This is what’s happening to Michael Keaton! He’s directing and starring in “Rode to Ruin” as a 75-year-old retired United States marshal who’s in pursuit of a murderous outlaw played by Morgan Freeman. The last time they made a film together was 1988’s “Clean and Sober” when Keaton was 37 and Freeman was 51.

Keaton’s latest film is the crime drama “The Whisper Man” with Robert De Niro, Michelle Monaghan and Adam Scott, which dropped on Netflix on Aug. 28.

Maybe ABC should rename their



Jean Smart as Deborah Vance in “Hacks” (Courtesy of Universal Television)

reality dance-competition show to “Dancing with the Wannabe Stars!” That’s all we’re saying!

Jean Smart is a complete workaholic! As soon as she wrapped her fifth and final season of “Hacks,” for which she won five Emmys (among her 15 overall nominations), she jumped into the rom-com “Egg Baby.” It drops on Amazon Prime Video in early 2027.

Smart was wed to actor Richard Gilliland, whom she met on “Designing Women” in 1986. They had a biological son, who’s now 36, and adopted a son in 2009. Sadly, Gilliland died in 2021 after a short illness at 71. Lately, she’s been seen with “The Morning Show” actor Joe Pacheco at award shows and has acknowledged him in her acceptance speeches. ... If it quacks like a duck!

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Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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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!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF

September 21, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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ACROSS

1 Bath powders
6 Selected
11 Patronize, as a bistro
12 Cuts at an angle
14 Long-haired cat
15 Rise in defiance
16 Montmartre
17 Wide
19 Big fuss
20 — ale
22 Rocker
23 Nugent
24 Raced
26 Nosh at midnight
26 Bishop's district
28 Free (of)
30 Spanish gold
31 Pianist Arrau
35 Slowpoke
39 Fireplace shelves
40 Ump's call
42 Old U.S. gas brand
43 Balloon filler
44 Impetus
46 Weeding tool
47 Roma's land
49 Pub perches

DOWN

1 Dorothy's friend
2 Germany's Merkel
3 Sign before
4 Keto restriction
5 Kick off
6 Trucker's device
7 Obey
8 Eggs
9 Mexican shawl
10 Shakes off
11 Muffles
13 Fine china brand
18 British ref. work
21 Beige shades
23 Tea biscuit
25 Tease
27 Choice words?
29 Museum display
31 Desk go-with
32 Hang around
33 Rub the wrong way
34 Gigi's "yes"
36 On the beach
37 Tristan's love
38 Windblown soil
41 Sports bar fixture
44 Food regimen
45 Engrave
48 Meadow
50 Rowing need

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** Which South American country has two capitals?
- AD SLOGANS:** Which car company uses the ad slogan “Let’s go places”?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is a johnny cake primarily made of?
- LITERATURE:** In which Harry Potter novel is the portkey (a method of magical transportation) first mentioned?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What is the most popular animal used on national flags?
- MOVIES:** What object is Wilson in the movie “Cast Away”?
- U.S. STATES:** Which U.S. state is the only one that has parishes instead of counties?
- MUSIC:** Which 1980s band released the album titled “Synchronicity”?
- TELEVISION:** What is James Kirk’s middle name in the “Star Trek” series?
- MYTHOLOGY:** Who is the Greek goddess of wisdom?

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

— **King Crossword** —

1. Bolivia, Sucre and La Paz; 2. Toyota; 3. Cornmeal; 4. “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire”; 5. The lion; 6. A Wilson-brand volleyball; 7. Louisiana; 8. The Police; 9. Tiberius; 10. Athena

Trivia Test Answers

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