

IN THE
STARS

Chamber to Host
Election Luncheon

CROSBY – The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Election Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90.

The event features a catered meal by 40 Acres of Soul Southern Food and desserts by a Celebrity Mystery Chef. All members in good standing are entitled to one vote per membership.

Tickets are \$25 for early birds (by Oct. 9) and \$30 at the door. **To register, visit** Crosbyhuffmancc.org or call 281-328-6984.

Highlands Methodist
Church to Celebrate
Centennial

Highlands Methodist Church invites the community to celebrate its 100th anniversary 1926 - 2026

Saturday 17

Live and silent auctions | Fish Dinner | Bake sale | Historical displays.

Sunday 18

Centennial Worship Celebration begins at 10:30 a.m. | followed by a catered lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Community Events

PUMPKIN PATCH

The Kipper Koffee is hosting a pumpkin patch at 5815 FM 2100 across from Crawfish Shack through October. Photos this Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., mini photo session for \$35 and one print for families, friends, and more with the option to buy more. On Saturday, October 24, they will host Pups and Pumpkins with 30 unique vendors from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It will also include a haunted trail and pumpkin patch fun! Pumpkins for sale all during the month beginning this Sunday, October 11. For more information, email at kipperkoffee@icloud.com.

BINGO NIGHT

The American Legion Hall at 14890 FM 2100 is sponsoring a **Bingo Night every Tuesday**. The doors open at 5 p.m. for social hour and games begin at 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. The bar will be open and Blue Line barbecue will be selling tacos at the event for Taco Tuesday. An ATM will be on the property for cash. For more information, call Melissa McBride at 832-922-3418.

COMMUNITY
CLEANUP

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce is hosting a **Community Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 17** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers are asked to meet at Crosby Middle School, 14703 FM 2100 and join businesses, schools, churches, civic groups, and neighbors as they work together to keep Crosby clean and beautiful. For more information call the chamber at 281-328-6984 or visit their website to register at crosbyhuffmancc.org. The chamber is looking for more volunteers to sign up!

‘Where Does It Stop?’: Erebia’s SIL urges Texas lawmakers to strengthen court oversight

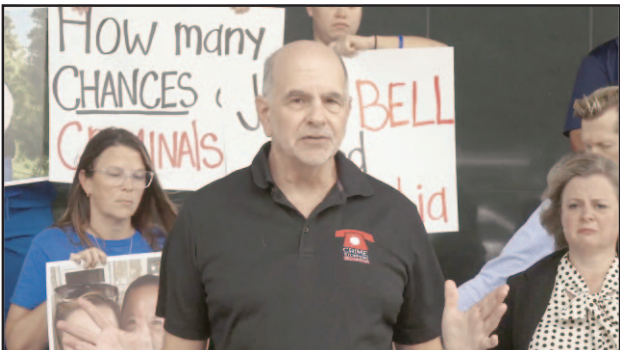
By David Taylor
Managing Editor

AUSTIN — Standing before a Texas House committee, Amber Burrough described a birthday celebration that became a painful reminder of the man her family lost.

Louis Erebia’s 15-year-old daughter should have been celebrating with a quinceañera, Burrough said. Instead, this weekend she broke down as relatives sang “Happy Birthday,” grieving a father who was shot and killed months earlier.

“If we were lucky, my brother would be at his daughter’s birthday this weekend,” Burrough told lawmakers. “We’re not lucky.”

Burrough, Erebia’s sister-in-law, traveled to Austin on Sept. 30 to testify before the House Select



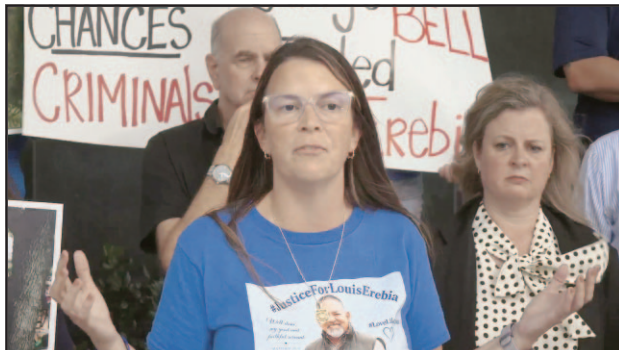
NO JUSTICE. Andy Kahn, victims’ rights advocate, spoke outside the courthouse last Tuesday after a meeting with District Attorney Sean Teare on the advancement of the Erebia case and potential additional charges on other suspects in the case.

Committee on Governmental Oversight. The panel, chaired by state Rep. Cody Vasut, met at the Capitol to hear testimony on prosecutorial integrity and possible safeguards against outside influence or failures in local prosecution.

The North Channel Star identified London Hogan, Sr. as the man charged with murder in Erebia’s

June 6 death. Hogan has also been charged with aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. A judge has denied him bond.

Erebia, 56, was killed after going to help recover his son’s stolen pickup, according to investigators. Authorities say Erebia and others tracked the truck by



VICTIMS PLEA. Amber Burrough, sister-in-law of Louis Erebia, who was murdered in June, says the family will continue to seek justice and the arrest of Logan Hogan’s family members who allegedly assisted him in the murder of Erebia.

GPS before the encounter ended near Airline Drive and North Loop 610 in Houston. His family has described him as a devoted husband, father of five, grandfather, youth baseball coach and community volunteer.

Burrough told the committee that her family believes the killing could have been prevented if the jus-

tice system had responded more forcefully to Hogan’s previous offenses and alleged probation violations.

“London Hogan was the individual who pulled the trigger, but I blame the judicial system as well,” she testified.

Continued. See **FAMILY OF SLAIN HOUSTON FATHER**, Page 5

HC voters get new app amid DPS registration snag

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

HOUSTON — Harris County voters preparing for the Nov. 3 general and special elections have a new mobile tool for checking election information, even as state and county officials work through a voter-registration file problem tied to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The Harris County Clerk’s Office has launched the free Harris Votes app, which allows users to check their registration, locate vote centers, view a sample ballot and receive election reminders on a smartphone. The app is available through the Apple App Store and Google Play and offers information in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese.

“We know voters want election information that is easy to access,” Harris Coun-



ty Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth said in announcing the app. She said the tool brings several voting resources together in one place to help residents prepare.

According to HarrisVotes.com, early voting runs Monday, Oct. 19, through Friday, Oct. 30. Vote centers will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day except Sunday, Oct. 25, when hours are noon to 7 p.m. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, with vote centers open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voters casting ballots in person should bring one of seven approved forms of photo identification: a Texas driver license, Texas Election Identification Certificate, Texas personal identification card or Texas handgun license, all issued by DPS; a U.S. military identification card containing a photograph; a U.S. citizenship certificate containing a photograph; or a U.S. passport book or card.

Except for the citizenship certificate, an ID may be expired by no more than four

years for voters ages 18 through 69. Voters 70 or older may use an otherwise valid approved ID regardless of how long it has been expired. A voter who does not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of the seven forms may complete a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and present an acceptable supporting document. Harris County says library cards are not accepted as voter identification.

The election comes after officials discovered that some voter-registration records submitted through DPS online driver-license transactions had not reached counties for processing. In a Sept. 16 notice, the Texas Secretary of State’s Elections Division said counties were seeing older DPS registrations on their dashboards and that Civix, the vendor associated with the state’s TEAM voter-registration system,

had been asked to remove the files temporarily while officials investigated.

State officials later said incomplete records from certain DPS transactions had not been transmitted to county registrars. The episode created an unexpected processing burden close to the registration deadline. Voters who use DPS online services should verify their status before voting and contact election officials if their information is not current.

Harris County voters may confirm their registration, review a sample ballot and find vote-center information through HarrisVotes.com or the Harris Votes app before heading to the polls. Instructions for residents with special needs should visit HarrisVotes.com to get information on accommodations to assist in voting.

Goose Creek ISD Education Foundation Launches Meals for Shields Program

Story by: Nancy Bonds, GCCISD
Director of Communications

Goose Creek CISD (GCCISD) recently launched Meals for Shields, a new initiative sponsored by the GCCISD Education Foundation that provides free meals to law enforcement officers who visit district campuses and creates opportunities to build positive relationships with students.

The program officially kicked off at Victoria Walker Elementary, where officers from the Goose Creek CISD Police Department, Baytown Police Department, and Chambers County Sheriff’s Office joined students for lunch. Students were excited to welcome the officers and enjoyed spending time getting to know those who serve their community.

GCCISD Education Foundation Director Dr. Anna Espinoza, who organized the event, thanked the participating officers for their service and willingness to connect with students through the new initiative.

GCCISD Education Foundation President Jim Wadzinski emphasized the importance of helping students become more comfortable interacting with law enforcement in a positive environment.

“This program is important because we need to establish relationships between law enforcement and our students,” Wadzinski said. “It’s a great opportunity for students to see officers on a more personal level and understand that they are here to help.”

Baytown Police Department



Chambers County Sheriff’s Office Sgt. Victoria Cauley in line with Victoria Walker student Leia Pecina. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

Officer Juan Barrera, who serves in the department’s Traffic Unit, also expressed support for Meals for Shields, noting that it gives officers a chance to establish a presence on campuses beyond their traditional law enforcement responsibilities.

“I think it’s awesome,” Bar-

rera said. “Having officers on campus helps strengthen safety while giving us an opportunity to connect with students.”

Through Meals for Shields, law enforcement officers can enjoy a complimentary meal when visiting any GCCISD campus, encouraging more frequent in-

teractions with students in a welcoming setting.

The program reflects the GCCISD Education Foundation’s commitment to supporting initiatives that benefit students while strengthening relationships between the district and the community.



Chambers County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Bryan Yeatman in line with Victoria Walker student Luis Flores. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

STAR-COURIER PHONES: 713-266-3444 • E-MAIL: GRAFIKSTAR@AOL.COM • ADS: 713-977-2555

YOUR MONEY.
TWO DAYS FASTER.

Get Paid Before Payday

LEARN MORE



Community
Resource
CREDIT UNION

CRCU.ORG/EARLYPAY | 281.422.3611

Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 22, 2026 at 6:00 PM at 12900 Crosby Lynchburg Road, Crosby, TX. 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: Alice Dangerfield Simone Wheatfall
Cassandra Clark Martin Lemond

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent: Daryl G. Johnson

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
	\$0.926000/\$100	\$0.926000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$187,561	\$193,726
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$187,561	\$193,726
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,736.81	\$1,793.90
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$57.09
and percentage of increase (+/-)		3.29%

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 HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 213-B will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 12:00 P.M., at Saltgrass Steak House located at 4400 East Freeway, Baytown, Texas 77521. 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: Dennis Arujo, Rod Snyder, John Denning, Preet M. Singh
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Jimmy C. Flowers

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
	\$0.75000 /\$100	\$0.78500 /\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.03500 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		4.67%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$314,809.00	\$311,004.00
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	\$314,809.00	\$311,004.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,361.07	\$2,441.38
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$80.31
and percentage of increase (+/-)		3.40%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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

NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR PUBLICATION

(AVISO DE ELECCIÓN PARA PUBLICACIÓN)

(THÔNG BÁO BẦU CỬ ĐỂ CÔNG BỐ)

(選舉公告)

To the registered voters of Crosby Independent School District:

(A los votantes registrados en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Crosby:)

(Gửi các cử tri đã đăng ký của Học khu Độc lập Crosby:)

(給克罗斯比獨立學區的登記選民:)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on November 3, 2026 for voting in a special election to consider the following:

(Por la presente se da aviso de que los lugares de votación a continuación estarán abiertos de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. el 3 de noviembre de 2026 para votar en una elección especial para considerar las siguientes:)
(Thông báo rằng các địa điểm bầu cử dưới đây sẽ mở cửa từ 7:00 sáng đến 7:00 tối vào ngày 3 tháng 11 năm 2026 để bỏ phiếu trong một cuộc bầu cử đặc biệt xem xét các vấn đề sau:)
(特此通知，以下投票地點將於2026年11月3日早上7點至晚上7點開放，供公民參加特別選舉，以考慮以下事項投票。：)

PROPOSITION A: THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE; the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$98,280,000 for school facilities, and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds.
(**PROPOSICIÓN A:** ESTE ES UN AUMENTO DEL IMPUESTO A LA PROPIEDAD; la emisión de bonos por un monto de \$98,280,000 para instalaciones escolares y la imposición de impuestos suficientes para pagar el capital y los intereses de los bonos.)
(**ĐỀ XUẤT A:** ĐÂY LÀ KHOẢN TĂNG THUẾ TÀI SẢN; việc phát hành công khố phiếu với số tiền \$98,280,000 cho các cơ sở trường học và việc thu thuế đủ để trả tiền gốc và tiền lãi của công khố phiếu.)
(提案A: 這是一項房產稅增的提案；發行\$98,280,000 金額債券用於學校設施建設，並徵收足以支付債券本金和利息的稅款。)

PROPOSITION B: THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE; the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$110,000,000 for a new middle school, and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds.
(**PROPOSICIÓN B:** ESTE ES UN AUMENTO DEL IMPUESTO A LA PROPIEDAD; la emisión de bonos por un monto de \$110,000,000 para una nueva escuela media y la imposición de impuestos suficientes para pagar el capital y los intereses de los bonos.)
(**ĐỀ XUẤT B:** ĐÂY LÀ KHOẢN TĂNG THUẾ TÀI SẢN; việc phát hành công khố phiếu với số tiền \$110,000,000 cho một trường trung học cơ sở mới và việc thu thuế đủ để trả tiền gốc và tiền lãi của công khố phiếu.)
(提案B: 這是一項房產稅增稅的提案；發行\$110,000,000 金額的債券用於新建一所中學，並徵收足以支付債券本金和利息的稅款)

Registered voters will be able to cast their election day ballots at any vote center identified on the County's website; vote centers in the District are:

(Los votantes registrados podrán emitir sus boletas electorales el día de las elecciones en cualquier centro de votación identificado en el sitio web del Condado; centros de votación en el Distrito son:)
(Các cử tri đã đăng ký sẽ có thể bỏ phiếu vào ngày bầu cử bất kỳ địa điểm nào được xác định trên trang web của Quận; các trung tâm bầu cử trong Khu vực là:)
(已登記的選民可以在縣政府網站上指定的任何投票中心投下選舉日的選票；選區內的投票中心是:)

Charles R Drew Elementary School, Gym, 223 Red Oak Avenue, Crosby, TX 77532
Crosby Kindergarten Center, Cafeteria, 805 Runneburg Road, Crosby, TX 77532
Newport Elementary School, Gym, 430 North Diamondhead Boulevard, Crosby, TX 77532
Riley Chambers Community Center, Large Assembly Room, 808 1/2 Magnolia Avenue, Crosby, TX 77532
Stonebridge at Newport INC, Stonebridge Room, 16401 Country Club Drive, Crosby, TX 77532

For early voting, voters may vote at any of the locations on the County's website at the following dates and times:
(Para la votación anticipada, los electores pueden votar en cualquiera de los lugares indicados en el sitio web del condado, en las siguientes fechas y horarios:)
(Đối với việc bỏ phiếu sớm, cử tri có thể bỏ phiếu tại bất kỳ địa điểm nào được liệt kê trên trang web của Quận vào các ngày và giờ sau đây:)
(提前投票，選民可在下列日期和時間前往縣政府網站上列出的任一地點進行投票:)

October 19-24, 2026 7:00 am-7:00 pm

(19-24 de Octubre de 2026)

(19-24 tháng 10, 2026)

(2026年10月19日至24日)

October 25, 2026 12:00 pm-7:00 pm

(25 de Octubre de 2026)

(25 tháng 10 năm 2026)

(2026年10月25日)

October 26-30, 2026 7:00 am-7:00 pm

(26-30 de Octubre de 2026)

(26-30 tháng 10, 2026)

(2026年10月26日至30日)

main early voting location:

(sede principal de votación anticipada:)

(VỊ TRÍ CHÍNH:)(主要位置:)

Harris County Attorney's Office & Law Library, meeting room 109, 1019 Congress Avenue, Houston, TX 77002

District early voting location:

(Centro de votación anticipada del Distrito:)

(Địa điểm bỏ phiếu sớm của quận:)

(選區提前投票點:)

Crosby Community Center, Large Assembly Room/Room 104, 409 Hare Road, Crosby TX 77532

Applications for voting by mail should be received no later than the close of business on October 23, 2026.

(Las solicitudes de votación por correo deben ser recibidas a más tardar al cierre de operaciones del October 23, 2026.)
(Đơn đăng ký bỏ phiếu qua thư cần được nhận chậm nhất là vào giờ kết thúc làm việc ngày 23 tháng 10 năm 2026.)
(郵寄投票申請須於2026年10月23日下班前送達。)

Applications should be sent to:

(Se deben enviar las solicitudes a:)

(Hồ sơ xin ứng tuyển cần được gửi đến:)

(申請資料請寄至:)

Teneshia Hudspeth, P.O. Box 1525, Houston, Texas 77251-1525; phone (teléfono) (điện thoại) (手機): (713) 274-8600; fax (fax) (fax) (傳真): (713) 755-4983; and email (correo electrónico) (email) (電子郵件): voters@vote.hctx.net.

Polling sites subject to change. (Los lugares de votación están sujetos a cambios.) (Các điểm bỏ phiếu có thể thay đổi) (投票地點可能有變動)

District's website (sitio web del Distrito) (Trang web của quận) (地區的網站): <https://www.crosbyisd.org/>

County's website (sitio web del Condado:)(Trang web của quận) (縣的網站): <https://www.harrisvotes.com/>

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

VOL. 31, NO. 39

© Copyright 2026

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 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.

Clock is ticking: Get your tickets for 'Cinderella'

Salt Dome Theatre and Barbers Hill High School Choir bring the magic of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" to the Travis Poe Center for the Performing Arts.

Showtimes are Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Leading the cast are seniors Molly Aslin as Ella (Cinderella) and Cody Tanamal as Toph (Prince Charming). The talented company of over 80 students also features seniors Luca Trousdale (Lord Pinkleton) and Kaley Francis (Madame/Stepmother), along with juniors Emily McKay (Marie/Fairy Godmother), Karys Kaderli (Charlotte), Madi Breeland (Gabrielle), Connor McKithern (Jean-Michele) and Leonidas Perez as the story's villain, Sebastian.

Tickets are now available online, with a small number available at the door, for \$15. For an extra-special experience, a \$5 Meet & Greet add-on will be offered at the end of both matinee performances (Oct. 10 and Oct. 17).

Grab your tickets and get ready to believe in a little magic! Tickets can be purchased online at <https://finearts.bhisd.net/ticketing/event-tickets>

Barbers Hill Board holds tax rate steady as enrollment tops 8,200

MONT BELVIEU - On Sept. 28, the Barbers Hill ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved a property tax rate of \$1.0523 per \$100 valuation for fiscal year 2026-2027.

The school board also adopted the branch college tax of .05 per \$100 valuation that BHISD taxpayers agreed to pay in order to bring a two-year college campus to BHISD property. The Lee College Bar-

bers Hill branch campus is expected to open its doors in the fall of 2027 on a 20-acre lot on the corner of Gill Parkway and FM 1409.

The total Barbers Hill ISD rate of \$1.0523 consists of a maintenance and operations tax rate of \$0.7591, which funds daily operations, and an interest and sinking tax rate of \$0.2932, which funds debt service.

The total tax levy re-



mains one of the lowest in the Houston metropolitan area when all exemptions are applied.

This tax rate supports the district's 2026-2027 budgets. The board approved the 2026-2027 operating budget at the June board meeting. The school district's \$152 million general operating budget includes a 2.5% average pay raise for all employee groups and a one-time 2.5% payment.

The budget and subsequent staffing additions are based on a 2.3% growth in enrollment.

Currently, the school district has an enrollment of 8,248 an increase of 3.1% over last year.

The budget includes an estimated \$30 million in recapture payments, also known as "Robin Hood." Barbers Hill ISD has remitted more than \$384 million back to the state in local tax revenue since the inception of the Robin Hood plan in 1993. (Source BHISD website)

Lee College hits record enrollment with 9.6k students

By Amanda Smoke,
Lee College Public
Relations Manager

Lee College has set yet another new enrollment record for Fall 2026, with 9,616 students enrolled across the college's campuses and programs.

The new record surpasses the previous high of 8,943 students, set in Fall 2024, by 673 students. This fall's enrollment also represents a 7.7% increase over Fall 2025, when Lee College enrolled 8,930 students.

The record enrollment reflects continued growth across the college as more students choose Lee College to pursue degrees, workforce credentials, transfer opportunities and



their academic and career goals.

"At a time when the value of higher education is being closely examined nationally, the continued growth at Lee College reflects the confidence students and families place in us," Scott Bennet, vice president of PIER & Enrollment Management, said. "They know they will receive a high-quality education leading to real employment opportunities, without the burden of crippling debt."

Bennett added, "This record is more than a number; it represents the trust our students and families place in Lee College, and we take that responsibility very seriously."

Lee College has continued to expand educational opportunities for students throughout its service area. In Huntsville, the college recently expanded its Prison Education Program to include an Associate of Arts degree, providing students with a direct pathway to transfer

to a four-year institution and pursue a bachelor's degree.

The college also continues to see growth in Dual Enrollment, which increased by 7% compared with Fall 2025. Through Dual Enrollment, high school students can earn college credit while completing their high school education, giving them an early start on their college journey.

"This growth reflects the work of faculty and staff and the strong partnerships we share with the school districts throughout our region and the opportunities those partnerships create for students," Jacob Atkin, president of Lee College, said. "These partnerships are helping

more students see college as part of their future and giving them a pathway to get there. This enrollment milestone represents more than a number. It represents thousands of students taking meaningful steps toward their educational and career goals and a stronger future for the communities we serve."

Lee College's Fall 2026 enrollment includes students pursuing a wide range of academic and workforce pathways, from university-transfer degrees to technical and career-focused programs. The college continues to strengthen and expand programs designed to meet the needs of students, employers and the communities it serves.

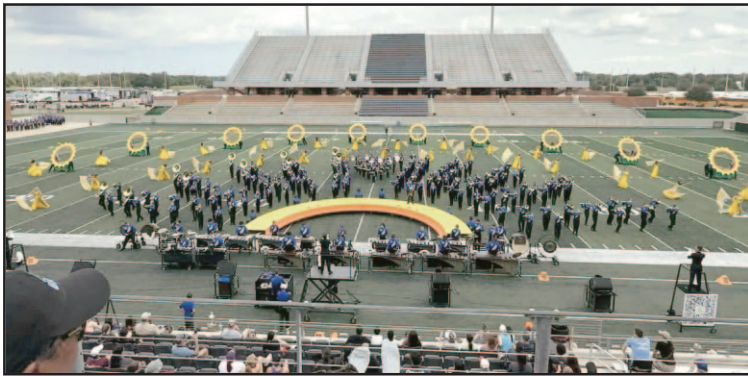
Soaring Eagle Marching Band Crowned Grand Champion at 4th Annual Alvin ISD Invitational Marching Contest

MONT BELVIEU, September 28, 2026 - The Soaring Eagle Marching Band soared to new heights on September 26 at the 4th Annual Alvin ISD Invitational Marching Contest, bringing home top honors throughout both the preliminary and finals rounds.

In the preliminary round, the Soaring Eagle Marching Band earned all three 6A caption awards:

6A Best Winds - Woodwinds & Brass
6A Best Color Guard
6A Best Percussion

The Soaring Eagle Band also captured the title of Overall Winner of the Preliminary Round.



The success continued into the finals competition, where Barbers Hill once again swept the caption awards:

Overall Best Winds
Overall Best Color Guard
Overall Best Percussion

With an outstanding performance in finals, the Soaring Eagle Marching Band was named Grand Champion of the 4th Annual Alvin ISD Invitational Marching Contest.

This impressive showing out of nineteen 6A

bands reflects the dedication, artistry, musicianship, athleticism, and countless hours of work put in by the students, staff, families, and supporters of the Soaring Eagle Band.

Marching season con-

tinues October 3 at Stallworth Stadium in Baytown. Barbers Hill performs in prelims at 3:15 p.m. Fill the stands, and support these incredible students as they continue their journey through the 2026 marching season.



Blue Mass Blesses The Brave

First responders honored in Mont Belvieu area for annual Holy Trinity event

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

MONT BELVIEU — Last Tuesday September 29, the Mont Belvieu Police Department team joined other area first responders for the annual Blue Mass hosted by Holy Trinity Catholic Church Mont Belvieu.

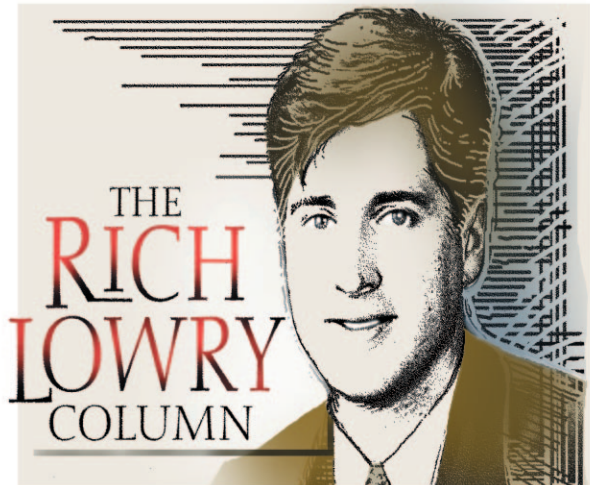
Gathering to break bread and celebrate Mass together — honored and blessed by parishioners — gave even deeper mean-



ing to the sense of community enjoyed in Mont Belvieu and Chambers County.

After Mass, Father Khan Ho blessed the first responder fleet, followed by a meal together in the Ferris-Wismer Fellowship Hall.

It was a wonderful evening that reminded all how fortunate they are to live and serve in this great community. (Source MBPD social media)



The revolt against tariffs

In 2016, Donald Trump’s support for tariffs helped propel him to a shocking electoral victory. In 2026, his tariff policy may help tank Republicans in the midterms. This turnabout counts as a surprise of Trump’s second term, and an unwelcome one for the president and his party.

During his political ascent in 2015-2016, Trump exploited issues where there was a disconnect between popular and elite opinion, and trade was prominent among them. His protectionism — expressed in pungent and excoriating terms — poached traditional Democratic ideological territory and appealed to the working-class voters that allowed him to crash the traditional Democratic “Blue Wall” states. In sheer political terms, what could go wrong? Well, nothing — until he got his way.

It turns out that Liberation Day was the beginning of the end for any appreciable political support for his tariff policy. The assumption has usually been that the politics of tariffs favor protectionism — the benefits are very visible and focused for specific sectors and businesses, so they will be highly committed to maintaining them, while the costs are widely dispersed among people who won’t care so much.

The logic here has been turned on its head, though. The costs felt by all the people with no direct stake in protectionism are tanking support for the tariffs. On top of this, there’s the fact that Trump won the second time promising to reduce prices, whereas import duties increase them. The Yale Budget Lab estimates the costs to households as about \$1,000 a year. The shambolic and arbitrary rollout of the tariffs, as well as the dubious legal basis for many of them, hasn’t helped, either.

According to a poll that the libertarian Cato Institute conducted with Morning Consult, 74% of Americans say the tariffs increased the prices they pay, including 66% of Republicans. Fifty-three percent of the public says that the tariffs have weakened the economy, and 49% say they have hurt their quality of life. Regarding the latest trade spat with Canada, a Politico/Public First poll found that 56% of Americans think the tariffs against Canada were “wrong.” According to a CBS/YouGov survey, people prefer a candidate who opposes Trump’s tariffs over one who supports them, by 26 points.

Democratic Senate candidates are promising to reverse Trump’s tariffs, even the card-carrying protectionist Sherrod Brown is critical. And some Republican candidates in states with lots of trade with Canada have dissented from the trade war with Our Friendly Neighbor to the North.

The Midwest is a trouble spot for the GOP in the midterms, and it’s not hard to understand why. China cut its purchases of U.S. farm products in retaliation for Trump’s tariffs, and the farm sector has been slammed. Exports of wheat, cotton, beef and pork to China plummeted last year, and overall agricultural exports to China fell by 66%.

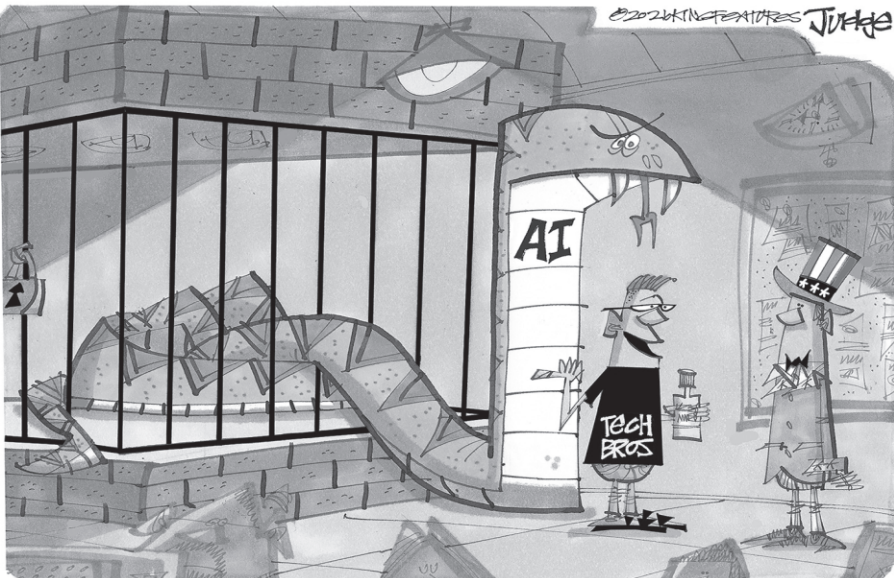
When you layer on top of this the price of diesel fuel jumping 80% and fertilizer increasing 15% because of the Iran war, it’s a formula for a revolt. The tariffs have led to a tangle a little more than a month before the election. Trying to address complaints about high grocery prices, the administration wants to relent on beef tariffs to help consumers, but farmers — hurt by other tariffs — are balking at a measure that will reduce prices at a time when they are struggling.

One way or another, someone is going to be unhappy. Even if Trump’s theory of the tariffs is correct — that higher import duties will lead to re-industrialization — the policy involves immediate disruption and increased costs in exchange for a protectionism-driven build-out that will take years to be fully achieved.

Long before then — indeed, by January — an opposition congressional majority hostile to the president and his tariffs may be entrenched in Washington. In politics, it’s often “careful what you wish for,” especially if it involves higher prices on an inflation-fatigued public.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
(c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc.

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5832 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*



☆

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Voter Registration Deadline Nearing

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 3 general election is Oct. 5. Early voting starts Oct. 19 and runs through Oct. 30, according to the Texas Secretary of State’s office.

The last day for an application to vote by mail must be received by Friday, Oct. 23.

Voters can visit votetexas.gov to confirm they are registered to vote, see what is on the ballot where they live, and get other election-related information. That site is maintained by the Texas Secretary of State.

Meanwhile, [The Texas Tribune](#) reported that an unknown number of voter registration applications were delayed because of an error by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The agency failed to forward the applications, submitted online through its driver’s license portal, to county voter registrars.

Texas Democrats have called on Gov. Greg Abbott to investigate the problem.

With the Oct. 5 deadline approaching, the delayed registrations from DPS could add to processing backlogs at affected counties. A spokesperson for the secretary of state’s office said affected voters can still have their ballots counted as long as they submitted their registration before Oct. 5.

The DPS portal accounted for about 6 million voter registrations from 2020 to 2024. Texas has more than 18 million registered voters.

JUDGE: TEXAS MUST AIR-CONDITION ALL PRISONS BY END OF 2029

A federal judge has ordered the state to air-condition its entire prison system by the end of 2029, the [Austin American-Statesman](#) reported. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice has estimated that could cost the state \$1.5 billion.

Nearly two-thirds of the 143,000 prisoners now held in Texas prisons do not have air-conditioning. In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Robert Pittman said the prison agency had “minimized and misled” the court about the seriousness of the heat problem.



“The data that TDCJ does not collect also paints a picture of an agency that is not attempting to meaningfully understand or document the dangers and impacts of heat,” Pitman wrote.

A TDCJ spokesperson took issue with the judge’s characterization.

“TDCJ has robust heat mitigation efforts in place to protect the safety of its population and staff,” Amanda Hernandez said in an email.

The state will appeal the ruling.

CAMP MYSTIC UNDER CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Camp Mystic, the Hill Country girls’ summer camp where 28 people died in the July 2025 floods, is under criminal investigation by the Texas Rangers, [kut.org](#) reported. Fourteen search warrants were executed against family and staff members who ran the camp. KUT News obtained a copy of the affidavit filed against Tweety Eastland, whose husband, Dick, was one of the 28 who died.

The affidavit states the Rangers have probable cause to believe the camp’s leaders committed a number of criminal offenses, including manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, injury to a child, deadly conduct, and abandoning or endangering a child.

“These offenses were committed against child campers—including both deceased victims and surviving campers of the flood event,” Brant Johnston, an investigator with the Texas Rangers, wrote in the document.

The affidavits are intend-

ed to allow the Rangers to obtain electronic data from Tweety and other members of the Eastland family that owns the camp, as well as camp staff members. A Kerr County state district judge approved it earlier this month.

Camp Mystic’s owners are being sued in civil court by more than a dozen families.

LAND COMMISSIONER BACKS VIRTUAL BORDER WALL

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham told the [Houston Chronicle](#) that a virtual border wall makes “the most sense” for much of West Texas, where plans to build a physical wall have drawn considerable opposition.

“The bottom line is there are places where physical barriers make sense, and there are places where they don’t. And we just want the solution that’s best for Texas,” Buckingham said in an interview with the Chronicle’s editorial board. “I think especially when you get to West Texas, a virtual wall, in my opinion, makes the most sense for most of that area.”

The Trump administration is moving to build a border wall across the more than 13 million acres the state agency controls, most of which is in West Texas. Gov. Greg Abbott has previously questioned the logic of building a physical wall in “rugged, isolated areas like Big Bend.”

Buckingham sent a cease-and-desist letter in July to U.S. Customs and Border Protection after a contractor for the agency was discovered clearing state-controlled land without permission.

Buckingham is running for reelection against Democrat Ben Flores, a former Bay City council member.

RED TIDE REPORTED OFF THE COAST OF GALVESTON

Biologists with the [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) have begun receiving reports of a red tide bloom off the coast of Galveston. They are monitoring fish kills and taking water samples around Crystal Beach and southern Galveston Island.

“Water samples indicate moderate to high concentrations of red tide cells, and beachgoers are reporting mild to severe respiratory irritation resulting from the bloom,” the news release said.

Red tide is a naturally occurring concentration of a microscopic alga that produces a toxin. Dense concentrations are known as “blooms” and kill fish by paralyzing their central nervous systems. This can result in dead fish washing up on Gulf beaches

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@texaspres.com.

☆

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

In the Library



Sometimes I have to give myself a talking-to.

I got back from my whirlwind library tour and had a lot to do. I tried to get things done and felt like I was spinning my wheels, leaving tire tracks on my office floor.

One of the things I had to do was record the comments made on the surveys handed out at my performances. This was something I was dreading. I suspected most of them would be nice—and there is nothing harder for me to do than read nice things written about me. I get embarrassed. I don’t want to do it. But recording those surveys was one of the things on my long to-do list. So I started.

People were not asked to provide their names, but the first survey was signed “Pearl.” I remembered Pearl. She had bright blue eyes. She told me she had recently moved into a senior assisted-living facility.

Pearl wrote, “It was very good and very interesting. I like hearing about books.” Pearl and I chatted after the show. She had come to the library with a walker because she had taken a bad fall that spring and broken both her femurs. I told her that sounded terribly painful. She told me she had almost lost her life numerous times, and now she thought she should write about that: how she had almost died several times but was still alive and well—with a walker—attending a presentation at her local library.

I talked a lot about optimism in my presentation, and a woman came up to me afterward and asked, “Do you think there is a difference between optimism and hope?”

I told her I wasn’t sure and asked her what she thought. She appeared thoughtful for a moment. She was going straight from the library to a fish fry to support a political candidate who probably will not win. But she felt he wanted to do the right things, so she was campaigning for him anyway.

“I think hope is what you do even if you know it won’t work out,” she said. “Because it might work out for your kids—or your grandkids.”

I liked that a lot.

Another man told me he was turning 90 later this year. When he heard a character in my book had a passionate romance at 86, he said he thought 86 was kind of young. I promised him that the next romance I wrote would involve mature adults.

I kept reading surveys. “You inspired me so much! I was feeling old and down—not anymore. I’m not a writer but a painter, and I am going to try.”

I had no idea who this painter was. I wondered if they would start painting. I wished they had told me in person so I could have encouraged them.

“Loved your enthusiasm and can-do attitude. I left feeling good today. Thank you.”

“Very uplifting. Food for my soul.”

“You inspired me to write my story for family.”

And that was when I gave myself a talking-to.

I saw how foolish I was to be embarrassed. I have been given the chance to provide a little optimism, a little entertainment and maybe a little hope. It isn’t a big thing that I do, but maybe it helps. And that is enough.

“People keep telling me I should write my story down!” Pearl said, right before she left. “You should!” I agreed.

Pearl nodded thoughtfully. “I might have to do that. I hear they’re starting up a writing group in the library.”

Till next time,
Carrie

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 6

Texans look to get back on track against Titans:
No. 2 Georgia faces No. 7 Alabama in key SEC tilt

This could be a very interesting weekend in college football and the NFL as a number of key matchups are planned for the second week of October.

All eyes will be on Tuscaloosa, AL on Saturday night in prime time (6:30 p.m. on ABC) as No. 2-ranked Georgia visits No. 7-ranked Alabama. The winner of this one might pretty much assure itself of a berth in the College Football Playoff (CFP) and take a leg up in the SEC rankings.

While those two do battle on Saturday night, No. 1-ranked Texas will face arch rival Oklahoma in the Red River Rivalry in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. Two weeks ago, Steve Sarkisian's team picked up a huge road win with a 20-17 win at Tennessee, while the Sooners were routed at Georgia, 41-13. Things are not going well in Norman, but an upset win over their long-time rival could save their season. We shall see.

There's another good one in the SEC at No. 11-ranked LSU takes on No. 24-ranked Kentucky, one of the surprise teams thus far this season. The Wildcats have an explosive offense and would like nothing more than to hand Tiger head coach Lane Kiffin his second loss of the season.

There's also a good one in the Big 10 as No. 23-ranked UCLA, another surprise team so far, takes on No. 15 Oregon in a conference elimination game for both teams.

Week 5 of the NFL season begins with Thursday Night Football as two desperate teams meet at Jerry World in Arlington as Tampa Bay, which lost its first three games and will be



without starting QB Baker Mayfield (thumb injury) take on the Cowboys, who dropped two of their first three games. The loser of this one can pretty much kiss their playoff hopes goodbye.

Speaking of desperate teams, the Texans, who lost their first three games, will look to get back on track against a very beatable Tennessee team in Nashville. DeMeco Ryans' team can ill afford to lose to a bad Titans team.

There's a big one in the NFC West as San Francisco, who have opened with three straight wins, visits the defending Super Bowl champs Seattle, which was upset at Washington two weeks ago.

Week five concludes with a good one on Monday Night Football as Buffalo visits the Los Angeles Rams. The Bills also won their first three games behind the arm and legs of QB Josh Allen, while the Rams dropped two of their first three games. This is sort of a big game for the Rams.

NCAA
UCLA at Oregon - This is an elimination game in the Big 10 as No. 23-ranked UCLA takes on No. 15-ranked Oregon. UCLA won three of its first four games and has put up some big offensive numbers under first-year head coach Bob Chesney. The Bruins are led by QB

Nico Iamaleva (820 yards, 4 TDs), running back Wayne Knight (445 yards, 9 TDs) and wideout Semaj Morgan (14 receptions, 174 yards, 2 TDs). The Ducks may have saved their season two weeks ago with a blowout win over USC as QB Dante Moore (926 yards, 9 TDs) suffered a concussion after taking a cheap shot from a USC linebacker. Moore should be cleared for this game and he will team with running back Jordan Davison (260 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receivers Evan Stewart (22 receptions, 278 yards, 3 TDs) and DaKorien Moore (14 receptions, 234 yards, 4 TDs) to outscore the Bruins. My pick, Oregon 36, UCLA 33.

Texas vs. Oklahoma - No. 1-ranked Texas takes on arch rival Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas' Fair Park as the Red River Rivalry is renewed. Two weeks ago, the 'Horns picked up a huge road win with a 20-17 victory over then No. 14 Tennessee, while the Sooners were waylaid at Georgia, 41-13. OU is struggling on offense behind QB John Mateer (883 yards, 8 TDs/4 interceptions). Things may not get much better this week when he faces a UT defense that recorded 10 sacks against the Vols, led by defensive end Collin Simmons with five sacks. Simmons did hurt his team with a stupid unsportsmanlike penalty, but head coach

Steve Sarkisian the issue has been resolved and won't happen again. We shall see. Look for UT QB Arch Manning (865 yards, 7 TDs), running backs Hollywood Smothers (198 yards, 2 TDs) and Ralek Brown (196 yards, 4 TDs) and wideouts Ryan Wingo (19 receptions, 239 yards, 2 TDs) and Cam Coleman (12 receptions, 208 yards, 4 TDs) to have big days as the 'Horns continue OU's miserable season. My pick, Texas 31, Oklahoma 13.

LSU at Kentucky - This could be a good one in the SEC as No. 11 LSU visits No. 24 Kentucky, which has been one of the surprise teams thus far in the 2026 season under first-year head coach Will Stein. The Wildcats already own a road win at Texas A&M, while the Tigers also dispatched the Aggies, 35-6 two weeks ago. Kentucky is led by QB Kenny Minchey (876 yards, 8 TDs), running backs Jason Patterson (326 yards, 3 TDs) and CJ Baxter (313 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Kenny Darby (13 receptions, 226 yards, 2 TDs). LSU has some offensive firepower of its own behind QB Sam Leavitt (1,044 passing yards, 5 TDs)/220 rushing yards, 6 TDs). Leavitt injured his hamstring, so it's unknown if he will play in this game. Head coach Lane Kiffin has a capable backup in Landen Clark, who scored two rushing TDs in the rout of the Aggies. LSU also has a capable runner in Dillon Jones (348 yards, 4 TDs) and a big-play wide receiver in Jackson Harris (11 receptions, 280 yards, 2 TDs). Look for Kentucky to hang around in this game, but look for the LSU defense to make a few plays down the stretch to pick up a big road win. My pick, LSU 26, Kentucky 23.

Georgia at Alabama - The Game of the Week in college football pits No. 2-ranked Georgia against No. 7 Alabama in prime time (6:30 p.m., ABC). Last year, Kelon DeBoer's team picked up a big road win against Georgia so Kirby Smart's team would like to return the favor this time around in Tuscaloosa. Both teams have explosive offenses as Georgia has averaged 54 points in their first four games, while 'Bama has averaged 48 points in its first four games. The 'Dawgs also have a solid defense and have allowed just 13 points per game thus far, while the Crimson Tide has allowed 20.5 points per game. Both teams have effective QB as Georgia is led by Gunner Stockton (754 passing yards, 10 TDs/100 rushing yards), while 'Bama is led by sopho-

more Keelon Russell (1,129 passing yards, 8 TDs/168 rushing yards, 3 TDs). Both teams have solid runners in Georgia's Nate Frazier (202 yards, 5 TDs) and 'Bama has Daniel Hill (225 yards, 4 TDs) and both teams have big-play wide receivers as Craig Dandridge (8 receptions, 176 yards) and Talyn Taylor (9 receptions, 169 yards, 3 TDs), while the Tide will counter with Ryan Coleman-Williams (17 receptions, 333 yards, 3 TDs) and Lotzeir Brooks (17 receptions. 256 yards, 1 TD). This game could come down to the more experienced QB, and that would be Stockton. Let's see if the stage is too big for Russell. My pick, Georgia 26, Alabama 24

NFL
Tampa Bay at Dallas - Week five begins with Thursday Night Football and will feature a couple of disappointing teams thus far this season as Tampa Bay visits Dallas. The Bucs lost their first three games and also starting QB Baker Mayfield, who is out three weeks with a dislocated thumb. Dallas, meanwhile, dropped two of its first three games, the most frustrating coming two weeks ago in Brazil when they gift wrapped a 34-31 last-second win by the Ravens with some questionable calls in the waning seconds of the game. There is little room for error for the Pokes, so look for QB Dak Prescott (780 yards, 7 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (169 yards, 3 total TDs) and wideouts CeeDee Lamb (20 receptions, 309 yards, 3 TDs) and George Pickens (16 receptions, 150 yards) to have big games as they take care of business on Thursday night. My pick, Dallas 33, Tampa Bay 16.
Houston at Tennessee - Speaking of struggling teams, the Texans have been perhaps the biggest disappointment thus far as they lost their first three games to start the season. DeMeco Ryan's team needs to take care of business against a pretty bad Tennessee team. Look for QB C.J. Stroud (794 yards, 3 TDs) to get the offense going (about time) and it would help if running back David Montgomery (103 yards, 3 total TDs) could get going. It would also help to get big-play wide receiver Nico Collins back on the field after he missed a couple of games with yet another hamstring injury. Look for the Houston defense to play better in this one as defensive end Will Anderson Jr. (4 sacks) makes it a long day for

Tennessee second-year QB Cam Ward (504 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Houston 27, Tennessee 12.
San Francisco at Seattle - A big early-season game in the NFC West pits the 49ers against the defending Super Bowl champs in Seattle. SF has been the hottest team out of the gates winning its first three behind a potent offense led by QB Brock Purdy (789 yards, 9 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (166 rushing yards, 3 TDs/13 receptions, 104 yards), wideout Deebo Samuel (9 receptions, 159 yards, 2 TDs) and tight end George Kittle (12 receptions, 174 yards, 3 TDs). That until will face a Seahawks defense that played well in its first two games, but gave up 33 points to an average Washington team two weeks ago that started backup QB Marcus Mariota two weeks ago. Seattle has some weapons of its own on offense and got starting QB Sam Darnold (392 yards, 4 TDs) back in the Washington game. He also has a solid running in rookie running back Jadarrian Price (169 yards) and the best wide receiver in the game in Jaxon Smith-Njigba (27 receptions, 405 yards, 6 TDs). Look for Seattle to play well on both sides of the ball as they let the 49ers know they aren't going to give up their division title without a fight. My pick, Seattle 26, San Francisco 20.

Buffalo at Los Angeles Rams - Week 5 concludes with a good one as the Bills head cross country to take on the Rams in what could be a preview of SB 61. Buffalo won its first three games behind QB Josh Allen (786 passing yards, 5 TDs/114 rushing yards, 6 TDs), running back James Cook (346 yards, 2 TDs), tight end Dalton Kincaid (14 receptions, 263 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver DJ Moore (11 receptions, 167 yards, 1 TD). The Rams lost two of their first three games and need to get going. QB Matthew Stafford (872 yards/6 TDs) has gotten off to a solid start. He's getting help on offense from running back Kyren Williams (214 rushing yards, 1 TD/11 receptions, 106 yards, 1 TD) and wideout Davante Adams (18 receptions, 358 yards, 2 TDs). It would help Stafford if star wide receiver Puca Nacua (5 receptions, 74 yards in one game) would return from a groin injury. Look for the Rams to put four quarters together as they win a wild one on Monday Night Football. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 33, Buffalo 31

Family of slain Houston father demands lawmakers crack down on judicial failures,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hogan received five years of deferred-adjudication probation in 2024 after pleading guilty in an aggravated-assault case involving strangulation, according to court records cited in published reports. He was later arrested in Louisiana while on probation.

"Within less than a year, he was crossing state lines in Louisiana trying to smuggle \$20,000 worth of dope into a correctional facility. And still, he was allowed to walk free in Harris County. Eight months later, they finally filed the motion to adjudicate, but nothing. He was given two days, two days for multiple attempts, multiple violations of probation, and within seven months he took my brother-in-law's life," she said. Burrough contended that authorities had repeated opportunities to hold him in custody before Erebia was killed.

Burrough invoked an earlier question from committee member Richard Peña Raymond about the consequences of repeated government failures.

"If things keep happening and people die, where does it stop?" she asked. "I am here as a representative of my family that is in mourning, my brother who can no longer speak and the citizens of Harris County."

Her testimony extended beyond her family's case. Burrough urged lawmakers to impose greater oversight on district attorneys, prosecutors and judges, arguing that accountability problems affect communities throughout Texas.

"We need oversight for our DAs. We need oversight for our judges," she said. "It's not just a Travis



Louis Erebia, 56 and his wife Amanda Erebia

County situation. It's a situation that is universal across Texas."

Burrough also cited dismissal figures she attributed to Harris County's 339th District Court and questioned how many defendants whose cases were dismissed later committed new crimes. The figures and her interpretation of them were presented as part of her testimony.

"When you talk about the failures of just the 339th Court, Judge Bell, since 2021," she said "5,407 cases filed. She's dismissed 2,173 of those dismissals that our DA had to sign off on. There were 128 aggravated assaults on a family member, 116 aggravated assaults with a deadly weapon, 93 possessions of a firearm felony, 93 family violent assault cases felony and 40 aggravated assaults," Burrough listed. All dismissed.

"How many of those offended?" she asked. "How many of those have also had family members lose their lives? At what point does my brother-in-law's voice count for something?"

Burrough told lawmakers that Erebia spent Saturdays visiting the homes of students who had left school and encouraging them to return. Since his death, she said, a Little League field has been named in his honor and

Woodland Acres Elementary School has dedicated a bench to him.

"But yet he's not here," she said. "He doesn't get a second chance."

The family is also seeking scrutiny of another person it believes assisted in the events surrounding Erebia's death. No additional murder charge had been announced at the time of Burrough's testimony, and the family's claims about another person's involvement remain allegations.

Burrough said the family had met with Harris County District Attorney Sean Teare a day before the Austin hearing to seek answers about the prosecution and possible additional accountability.

Outside the committee room, she said the family's advocacy would continue.

"All I can tell you is that we're not done," Burrough said in an interview. "We're going to continue fighting and advocating, not just because it was a preventable murder of Louis, but because there are so many citizens in Harris County that are still unprotected."

She closed her testimony by acknowledging that no change in law could return Erebia to his wife, children and grandchildren. But she told committee members that they could prevent another family from suffering the same loss.

"We're never going to get my brother-in-law back," Burrough said. "But you have the power to keep his voice going and make changes that stop other families from living through what we're living through."

To all persons claiming an interest in: 1997-21'-D&C INC-DAC00128A797-1997-250HP-YAMAHA-S250TXRV-61AUL100496

TRIKIET NGUYEN

Apply to SCDNR for title on watercraft/outboard motor. If you any claim to the watercraft/outboard motor, contact SCDNR at (803) 734-3699. Upon thirty days of the last advertisement if no claim of interest is made and the watercraft/outboard motor has not been reported stolen, SCDNR shall issue clear title.

Case No: 20240827980602.

STAR-COURIER FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Barbers Hill 72, Clear Brook 11
Baytown Sterling 28, Goose Creek Memorial 21
Crosby 65, Channelview 3
Huffman Hargrave 28, Little Cypress-Mauriceville 21
Nederland 40, Baytown Lee 6

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCT. 8
Baytown Sterling at Beaumont West Brook, 7 p.m., Beaumont ISD Stadium
Crosby at Kingwood, 6 p.m., Turner Stadium

FRIDAY, OCT. 9
Barbers Hill, BYE WEEK
Baytown Lee, BYE WEEK
Goose Creek Memorial vs. Beaumont United, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium
Huffman Hargrave at Bridge City, 7:30 p.m., Larry Ward Stadium

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



Sikes Disposal Pits Superfund Site

Public Notice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6

October 2026

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) has completed the sixth five-year review of remedy implementation and performance at the Sikes Disposal Pits Superfund site (Site) in Crosby, Texas.

The five-year review concluded that the remedy for the Site is protective of human health and the environment in the short term. Excavation and incineration of contaminated soil and sediments eliminated the potential direct exposure to contaminated media, groundwater contamination is contained and institutional controls are in place to restrict groundwater use. For the continued protectiveness of the remedy, EPA and TCEQ are considering updating O&M plan to ensure the cover over the buried wastes is fully intact. In addition, both EPA and TCEQ will update site-specific risk re-evaluation with comprehensive analysis related to

changing land use, recreational and other developments at the site. EPA will determine the need for institutional controls to prevent disturbance to buried wastes. Additionally, property owners and businesses will be notified annually via mail of hazards, and ICs present at the site and the site status.

The EPA completed the sixth five-year review for the Site in September 2026. The next five-year review is required by September 2031.

Site status updates are available on the Internet at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/sikes>

Inquiries from the news media should be directed to R6Press@epa.gov

For more information about the Site, contact:

Chandani Rana/Remedial Project Manager
(214) 665-2747
or by email at rana.chandani@epa.gov

Jason McKinney/Community Involvement Coordinator
(214) 665-8132 or 1-800-887-6063 (toll-free)
or by email at mckinney.jason@epa.gov

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 544134; Estate of DAVID BYROM, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 5 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JUNE 2, 2026 to:

EDNA MALDONADO BYROM

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this SEPTEMBER 29, 2026


by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

Donate Your Car



Imagine the Difference You Can Make

- Every donated vehicle will be properly recycled, reducing waste and harmful emissions.
- Vehicle donations are fully tax-deductible and the proceeds help provide services to help the blind and visually impaired.

FREE TOWING & TAX DEDUCTIBLE

When you donate your car, you'll receive:

- ✓ a \$200 restaurant voucher
- ✓ a 2-night, 3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations



Call 1-866-413-5094

Help Prevent Blindness
Get A Vision Screening Annually





Celebrating 100 years!

HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

1926-2026

You Are Invited To

SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday, October 17 & 18, 2026

Sat. Oct. 17 - 84th Annual Fish Fry from 11 am - 2 pm
Fish Dinners/Live & Silent Auctions/Bake Sale/Historical Displays
Sun. Oct. 18 - Centennial Worship Celebration @ 10:30 am
Catered Lunch to follow the Service in the Fellowship Hall

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 40,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!

JOBS AVAILABLE

Control Insulation Services, LLC seeks a Sr. Field Engineer (Crosby, TX). Confer with management & Operations to discuss specifications, procedures, & quality control for insulation, fireproofing & scaffolding projects in oil & Industry. Supervise/make recommendations to site Field Engineer & oversee 9 Insulation Supervisors, 2 Fire proofing supervisors, 2 Paint supervisors, & 2 Scaffold supervisors.
Reqs.: Bachelor in Industrial Engineering or related field plus 4 yrs. exp. as Engineer in Insulation, Fireproofing & Scaffolding in oil & gas industry that includes reviewing progress reports, monitoring site progress & applications of hot & cold insulation materials. 32% travel to job sites in TX, LA, New Mexico, North Dakota & other States in U.S. yet to be determined. Pre-employment background check & drug test.
To Apply: Email CV to Ayme Almontes-Franco at Ayme.franco@controlinsulation.com

RV SPACE

Small RV Space Available in Crosby

Nice shade tree on the property

For more information, call:
(281)571-5857

16-2t

The World's First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Call 844-545-0270 to get your 45-day risk free trial.



Atom X

- ✓ Revolutionary technology with touchscreen control.
- ✓ Hearing modes for any environment.
- ✓ Multiple models to choose from.
- ✓ Portable charging case.
- ✓ 48-hour battery life.
- ✓ UV cleaning.
- ✓ Background noise cancellation.
- ✓ 45-day risk free trial.
- ✓ Proudly located in the U.S.A.
- ✓ Free shipping direct to your door.
- ✓ 1.5 million+ happy customers.
- ✓ Lifetime support.



SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money



281-428-1187
1-800-345-8471
Sales & Repair Service
Baytown, Texas
John Henderson
628 Cedar Bayou Rd.



713-702-3200
JOHNNY GAENE
OWNER-INSPECTOR
911 S. MAIN
HIGHLANDS TX. 77562



WE DELIVER TO YOU
(281)843-5000
residential · commercial · industrial

FILL DIRT
BANK SAND
ROADBASE
LIMESTONE
hillmaterials.com



Signs & Banners
281-462-1200
www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net
213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

SMALL ADS BRING **BIG** RESULTS
Ask about our Business Directory Package
13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260
Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package
Photo + Story + Web for \$260
713-266-3444



AUTO BODY & PAINT RESTORATIONS

- ✓ AMERICAN MUSCLE CARS
- ✓ COLLISION REPAIR
- ✓ CLASSIC CARS
- ✓ ASE MASTER TECHNICIAN
- ✓ 40+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

MARK SECREST
HIGHLANDS, TX

Phone Number
210-237-3988

Business Directory

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details



From left, Arturo Castro, Jessica Biel, John Cena, Teyonah Parris and Sam Richardson star in "Matchbox: The Movie."

“Matchbox:The Movie”

“Spider-Man: Brand New Day” (PG-13) — The fourth installment in Tom Holland’s “Spider-Man” film series is finally out to rent on Oct. 6 after its legendary run in theaters, where it became the third-highest-grossing film of all time! (Luckily, Marvel isn’t holding back with on-demand streaming of the film, like Universal is with Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey.”) Zendaya (“The Odyssey”) and Jacob Batalon (“The Wrecking Crew”) are back in their roles from the previous three films, while Jon Berthal’s Punisher makes his first appearance in the series. More newcomers include Florence Pugh (“Thunderbolts”), who joins the cast as her MCU character Yelena Belova, and Sadie Sink (“Stranger Things”) makes her debut in the MCU as Jean Grey. The film picks up four years after Dr. Strange’s spell wipes Peter’s (Holland)

existence off the face of the planet. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Animals” (R) — After teaming up with his longtime buddy Matt Damon for action-thriller film “The Rip,” Ben Affleck is back on Netflix with this crime thriller, co-starring Kerry Washington (“Wake Up Dead Man”) and Gillian Anderson (“The Julia Set”). “Animals” follows Los Angeles mayoral candidate Mark Kimball (Affleck), whose son suddenly gets kidnapped during his political campaign. The kidnapper demands a ransom, but with all his money spent on his campaign, Mark is forced to resort to more dangerous methods of getting his child back. In turn, amid the chaos, secrets from his and his wife’s past emerge that they never expected to come to light. Steven Yeun (“The Rip”) and Adriana Paz (“A Mouthful of Ash”) round out the rest of the cast. Stream it on Oct. 9!

(Netflix)

“Avatar: Seven Havens” (TV-PG) — If you have any Zillennials in your home, you know the chokehold that “Avatar: The Last Airbender” still has on them. It’s long regarded as one of the best animated fantasy series of all time and introduced us to beloved characters like Aang, Katara, Zuko, Appa and more. Shortly after the original “Avatar” series ended, a sequel series, “The Legend of Korra,” aired from 2012 to 2014. Now, 12 years later, a third series is set to premiere on Oct. 9, following Korra’s Avatar successor, Pavi, who’s also a reincarnation of Korra. Taking place 225 years after “Korra,” Pavi and her twin sister, Nisha, team up to save the Seven Havens before an apocalyptic event destroys their world. (Paramount+)

“Matchbox: The Movie” (PG-13) — After the \$1 billion feat that “Barbie” (2023) achieved in theaters, Mattel had no choice but to wonder, “What if we made movies about every iconic toy we have?” However, because “Masters of the Universe” bombed, they decided to go for a streaming-only release for this action-comedy film based on the Matchbox toy cars. John Cena (“Coyote vs. Acme”) leads the film as spy and former soldier Sean Walker, who reconnects with the childhood friends he used to play cars with. But while they’re at the bar, the entire group gets drugged and kidnapped by a group of criminals who are searching for a nuclear warhead; and even though his past almost gets his old friends killed, they decide to help Sean in an attempt to steal the bomb and clear their names. Check it out on Oct. 9. (Apple TV)

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q: Has Catherine Zeta-Jones retired from acting? Also, has she ever starred in anything with her husband, Michael Douglas? — R.B.

A: While Catherine Zeta-Jones’ level of stardom isn’t as high as it was during the earlier part of her career, when she starred in movies like “The Mask of Zorro” and “Chicago” (the latter of which she won an Oscar for), she’s still acting — a lot. She currently plays Morticia Addams in the Netflix series “Wednesday,” and right before this, she starred in two short-lived shows: “National Treasure: Edge of History” on Disney+ and “Prodigal Son” on Fox.

If you missed it, be sure to check out her portrayal of the late, great film star Olivia de Havilland in the TV miniseries “Feud” (on Hulu), opposite Jessica Lange’s Joan Crawford. Even though she wasn’t nominated for an Emmy, it’s a series that’s worth watching for its fabulous depiction of an on-set rivalry during Hollywood’s Golden Age.

Also, Zeta-Jones isn’t slowing down anytime soon. She’s co-starring with Sir Anthony Hopkins in the upcoming movie “A Visit to Grandpa’s,” which takes place in her native Wales, and you can currently catch her in the new Amazon Prime Video series “Kill Jackie.”

As for her hubby, Michael Douglas, they both starred in the Oscar-nominated film “Traffic” in 2000, but didn’t share any scenes together. They actually had met two years earlier at a film festival and tied the knot a month before “Traffic” premiered.



Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones

with two new actors — Laura Bailey and Ian Alexander — who incidentally did voice work for the video-game version of “The Last of Us.”

Q: I thought Ben Stiller’s daughter was really good in “The Comeback.” Is she going to be in anything else soon? — M.G.

A: Ben Stiller grew up with two hilarious actor parents — Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller, who formed their own comedy duo. The funny genes are strong in their family and in Ben’s wife, Christine Taylor (“The Brady Bunch Movie”). So, it’s no wonder that their daughter, Ella Stiller, appears to be a natural as well. She played Lisa Kudrow’s accident-prone assistant in the HBO series “The Comeback” and also had a recurring role in “And Just Like That ...”

Next up for Ella is the CBS legal drama series “Cupertino,” where she’ll be a series regular alongside Mike Colter (“Luke Cage”) and Busy Philipps (“Girls5eva”).

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Q: When’s the new season of “The Last of Us” coming out? I’m still upset that Pedro Pascal isn’t in it anymore. He’s my favorite actor. — H.S.

A: While the third season of the hit HBO series “The Last of Us” was renewed back in April 2025, like most cable and streaming series these days, there can be years between a new set of episodes. According to HBO’s CEO Casey Bloys, we do know that the magical year will be 2027 — but not before then.

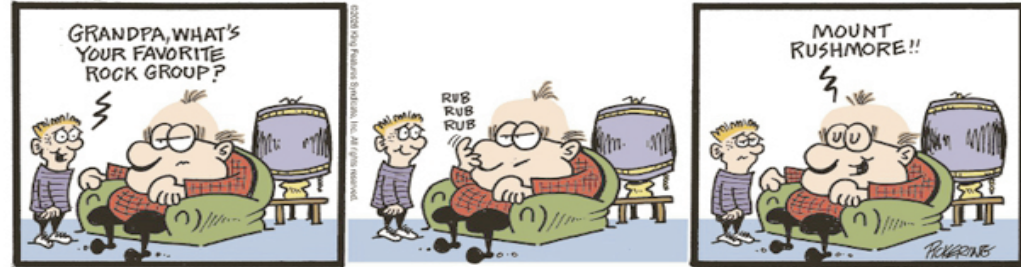
Recently, it was announced that the great John Goodman (“The Righteous Gemstones”) has joined the cast, along

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Word is different. 2. Glasses are missing. 3. Mouth is different. 4. Hat is larger. 5. Back of stool is added. 6. Mouth is different.

October 5, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Use a squeegee

5 ACLU concerns

8 Oodles

12 Valhalla VIP

13 — Jima

14 Slightly

15 Reveals by accident

17 California valley

18 LAX and JFK overseer

19 Bad spell

20 Playful sea critter

21 Young bloke

22 Used to be

23 Skewered Thai recipe

26 Beach robes

30 Four Corners st.

31 Gearwheel tooth

32 Barrett or Jaffe

33 Pond floater

35 Unclothed

36 Long lunch?

37 Tier

38 Teapot feature

41 Binge

42 Hiatus

45 Galley gear

46 Legendary gossip columnist

48 Vicinity

49 Soul, to Sartre

50 Eager

51 Drudge

52 PX patrons

53 Trawler gear

DOWN

1 Wild canine

2 Concept

3 Pocket bread

4 Em halves

5 Ticked off

6 Candy sold in twos

7 Soak (up)

8 Breaking point

9 Final notice

10 Clock reading

11 Swizzle

16 Horse-drawn carriage

20 Klutz

21 Revolving tray

22 Witty one

23 Bando of baseball

24 "Exodus"

25 Up to

26 Massachusetts cape

27 Fine, to NASA

28 Compass dir.

29 Blue

31 Taxi

34 Impose

35 Egg drinks

37 Demolishes

38 Daytime drama

39 Rid of rind

40 Sweet sandwich

41 Rock's Hendrix

42 Donate

43 Bickering

44 Profs' degrees

46 Trail the pack

47 "Sheesh!"

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Invisible Man"?

2. GEOGRAPHY: In which country is the Topkapi Palace located?

3. ASTRONOMY: How long is a year on the planet Mars?

4. MOVIES: What is the name of the sea witch in the animated film "The Little Mermaid"?

5. ANATOMY: What is the average lifespan of a red blood cell?

6. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals MMI?

7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the three secondary colors in traditional color theory?

8. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom features the Bluth family?

9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of jellyfish commonly called?

10. GAMES: How many squares are on a checkerboard?

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

1. H.G. Wells; 2. Istanbul, Turkey; 3. 687 Earth days; 4. Ursula; 5. 120 days; 6. 2,001; 7. Orange, green and purple; 8. "Arrested Development"; 9. A smack; 10. 64

BACK AND NECK CARE THAT KEEPS YOU PAIN-FREE

Living free of back and neck pain is possible. The orthopedic and neurological experts at Houston Methodist use advanced technology and innovative treatments so that you can get back to doing the things you love. Whether your spine condition is severe and debilitating or just bothersome, we provide effective, minimally invasive treatment options — near you.

That's the difference between practicing medicine and leading it. **For you.**



HOUSTON
Methodist[®]
LEADING MEDICINE

Same-day appointments available
houstonmethodist.org/spine
713.441.0241